

# The Canadian Templar



June 2016  
Newsletter



## News and Report from our Grand Prior

The Vicar General and I have just returned from Savannah Georgia where GP USA has had their Annual Convent and Investiture. Grand Prior Patrick Carney wanted me to convey his best wishes to all Canadian Templars.

Previously in April, at the OSMTH international meetings in Copenhagen, elections were held for the three Grand Magistral Officers. The Grand Commander and Deputy Grand Commander remain unchanged, Col. Dr. Marcel De Picciotto, and Col. Thomas Curtis respectively. The Chancellor General is the former Secretary General Dale Starkes from Chicago, whom many of you may know. The former Chancellor General, Rev. Pertti Ruotsalo of Finland has been appointed the Legate General. Also at the meetings, there was much discussion and some presentations on the plight of the refugees fleeing Syria and Christians at Risk. OSMTH is active with its advocacy on these issues at the UN, church bodies, other NGOs, and numerous network connections. Our Order has openly condemned the persecution of Christians and the desecration our Holy sites in Serbia, Kosovo, and Syria by religious extremists. Consequently, many organizations have sought our support.



The goal of many of the organizations that have addressed us, have described in first hand detail the horrors of the atrocities affecting our Christian brothers and sisters as well as countless Muslims. The refugees need food, shelter and a means to sustain their existence but that is not enough. They desperately want to return to their homes but need the security against the ISIS forces. So, at the request of the Jordanian government we are working together to develop plans for the eventual resettlement of Christians back in the Middle East. Some of these Christian settlements have dated back to the time of Christ. One of the organizations that we support is the Iraqi Christian Relief Fund, headed by Juliana Taimoorazy, herself an Iraqi refugee. Through the Philos Project, they attempt to maintain the cultural identity of the Syriac Chaldean Christians who have fled from persecution and execution on the Plains of Nineveh. In addition to providing food, shelter, and medicine during the period of dysphoria, they are also working with some of the refugees towards their return to the Middle East. I have invited Juliana to meet with our Canadian Templars when she is in Canada seeking support from our 'new' government.

In past newsletters I have indicated how our Order has grown in the International stage and has been sought after by many organizations that share similar points of view as ourselves. The Grand Priory of Canada is well respected and considered a formidable OSMTH member internationally. There may be opportunities for some of these organizations that our Order supports to come to Canada to address our members on some of the key issues affecting Christians, and humans in general, who are at risk. I have extended invitations to those I have met. I will keep you informed, however I am told it may be with short notice.

Furthermore, I have been approached by the Grand Master to see if there are any keen young Canadians wishing to intern with the Parliament World Council of Churches in the Chicago area. It is a tremendous opportunity for young Christians to work together on worldwide issues. Anyone interested or in need of more information, please contact me directly.

As I have mentioned several times in the past, Dame Nicole Lassaline has had several appointments on the international level. Her constant dedication and energetic attitude has been well recognized and appreciated by many, especially since she not only is actively employed but concurrently takes several challenging university night courses. As a result of her efforts, Nicole has recently been appointed Deputy Secretary General. This is an increasingly more important role as the Order grows internationally and needs the dedication of many to keep the administrative requirements fulfilled. Congratulations to Nicole.

The next international meeting is in Sophia Bulgaria, October 13-17. Registration details to follow by email. The spring meeting will be back in Tomar Portugal, March 12-16, 2017.

Our website will be undergoing some dramatic changes in the coming months. Current information and notices will be posted and each of the Pories will need to have their Communications Team preparing information to keep the site current. Just like our newsletter, it is only as good as the information being submitted. It's a group effort. The website will be a good recruiting tool. Stay tuned.

I know there will be many events in the coming weeks. Good luck to all. Again keep in mind that the success of our organization is in the good works of our members. We need more like-minded people in all our areas, particularly young people.

Blessings,

Cdr. (ret'd) Peter L. Kelly  
Grand Prior

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## Editor's Letter

I have continued to bring you information on the progress of the war in the Middle East and our usual mix of articles from around the world.

I have also shortened some of the articles to give an introduction to the article with a link to the full one should you be interested in reading more.

I certainly don't intend to get into American Politics but I did note that Donald Trump actually talked about Christians in the Middle East. That is the first time I've heard anything about this topic in the American political establishment so whatever else happens good on him for raising it. Of course we now know he's the Republic candidate for the Presidency.

On a personal note I think the media need to change the way they report politics as to my mind the young people don't get a real shot at talking about Politics. Mostly we seem to get the same "old" faces reporting on it and they are clearly out of touch with the voters. In Canada Mike Duffy was castigated by all media people and yet he was cleared of all charges. In the USA the media has been astonished at the success of Trump which tells me their noses are so far up in the air that they missed the move for change in the political environment in the US. We see the same situation in Europe.

I think it is now time for a new news program run by people under 30.

Anyway... hope you enjoy this issue and do feel free to send in any comments, negative or positive, or indeed any suggestions. My contact details can be found at the foot of this newsletter.

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Mind that you can read older copies of this newsletter at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/religion/kt.htm>

I might add here that I logged into the OSMTH site and could not find the archived newsletters on their site. This means the above link is now the only online source where you can get our old newsletters.

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## News from the Priory of Ascension of Our Lord, Windsor

Our Priory of The Ascension Of Our Lord continues to grow and expand.

The following are some of the photos taken at the last two dinner meetings to show how busy and involved our Knights and Dames are.



Priory donations committee deliberating the annual donations recommendations and a picture from our dinner evening



Dame Stacy Corlett, explaining the volunteer opportunities available to our members

<p><b>City of Glenview</b> Illinois</p> <p><b>State of Volunteer Work Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare career meals</li> <li>• Stock food bank</li> <li>• Gather donations of "toiletries" items to support their in-home "Shower" program</li> <li>• Gather donations of non-perishable food items</li> </ul> <p><b>Special Requirements Needed in February</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Police Clearance required</li> <li>• Groups of 3-8 people to help with evening "Shower" program</li> </ul> <p><b>TEAM LEADER:</b> Dame Stacy Corlett stacy_corlett@glenview.com</p>	<p><b>Elderly At Risk</b></p> <p><b>Russell Lodge Long Term Care</b></p> <p><b>State of Volunteer Work Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist with Home Rail Program for residents the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month</li> <li>• Track long volunteer work coffee, chips, sandwiches, etc.)</li> <li>• Serve as a friendly visitor for residents (i.e., converse, read to them, play card games, etc.)</li> <li>• Volunteer drivers to take visitors to off-site medical appointments</li> </ul> <p><b>Special Requirements Needed in February</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police Clearance</li> <li>• Screening and training</li> </ul> <p><b>TEAM LEADER:</b> Dame Stacy Corlett stacy_corlett@glenview.com</p>	<p><b>Special Requirements Needed in February</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police Clearance</li> <li>• TB test</li> <li>• Special addition to your Auto Insurance policy if you wish to be a volunteer driver</li> </ul> <p><b>State of Volunteer Work Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants to be there and implement Elder Abuse Education Program for different senior groups around the city -- using established Power Point and help coordinate location for these presentations</li> </ul> <p><b>Special Requirements Needed in February</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police Clearance</li> </ul> <p><b>TEAM LEADER:</b> Dame Stacy Corlett stacy_corlett@glenview.com</p>	<p><b>Sandwich Teen Action Group - S.T.A.G.</b></p> <p><b>State of Volunteer Work Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Help with Bags</b> Fundraiser to replace broken gym bags, replace lighting to run down on operational gym, and assist with on-going after school programming and summer day program</li> <li>• Adults to assist in Mentoring and outings for existing programs             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (i.e., teach kids about community responsibility for change by assisting with community planning and social and clean up program)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Special Requirements Needed in February</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Mentorship needed to meet up new programs such as learn how to swim, basketball help, etc.</li> <li>• Collect donations for S.T.A.G.'s small boat capsized where teenage kids get to learn how to row, and indoor track/sports equipment</li> </ul> <p><b>TEAM LEADER:</b> Dr. Peter Bony pbony@northwestern.com</p>	<p><b>Let us give ourselves to service</b></p> <p><b>For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.</b></p> <p>James 2:26</p>
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The Brochure



Priory members studying the volunteer opportunities brochure



Sir Terry Fink in auction mode with the painting donated by Mrs. Carol Del Col "Fly By Knight"



Left: Sir Eddie Carey acting as wine steward at our dinner meeting and

Right; Sir David and Sir Stephen, the aumoniers



Dame Sheila Wright dancing up a storm with Marshal General Anthony Cuthbert in Copenhagen

As to upcoming Priory events, we will be holding a Priory dinner meeting on Tuesday 07 June. The dinner is a pasta fundraiser prepared by some of our members and the proceeds will help to fund the volunteer initiatives recently put forward by the Dames of our Priory.

On Sunday 21 August we will be holding our annual Summer Social at Beach Grove Golf and Country club.

Report from Dame Barbara Boles-Davis

Greetings to my fellow Templars.....It seems hard to believe that I have now been home from the Brazilian Amazon for almost a month. I teamed up with [IsleGo](#) for a surgical/medical/dental mission. Our team flew to Manaus, Brazil, but worked from "Coari", about 30 hours from Manaus, by boat. There are no roads in this part of the Amazon. Some of the villages were very small, consisting of maybe twenty homes. People there have a subsistence living: fish from the river, and fruits of the jungle. The main product is manioc, but Brazil nuts are also a source of income. The river is the "highway", a main source of food, and a connection to the outer world.

The surgical team performed major surgeries from the Coari Hospital, but slept on the boat every night, and had breakfast and dinner on the boat. Every morning, the boat left to visit the villages along the river. Our boat docked in Coari every night.

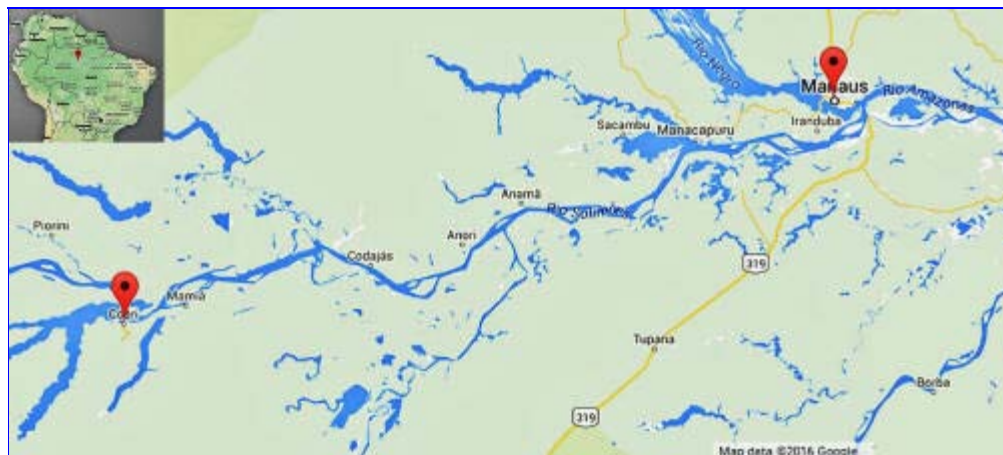
I was very impressed by the whole organization. The medical boat had two fully equipped dental areas, two triage areas, a minor surgery, and a decent pharmacy. Records were kept on the villagers, so needed medications were delivered (e.g. insulin, hypertensive meds, etc.) and vaccinations were kept up to date. There was also a lot of health teaching, and information for the mothers regarding the "sale" of children, and the awareness of what happens to these children. There is a big campaign about this in Brazil.

The medical boats (four in total) are operated through the [Presbyterian Church in Coari](#). The boats have permanent physicians, dentist, cooks (delicious food) and sailors, but are always open to groups that want to share in the work. Our MMI team consisted of twenty, and all together there were 49 on the boat. The boats go out to the villages every week, for six days, and come back for cleaning, restocking, and change of volunteer teams.

I salute the the work of the Presbyterian Church and IsleGo. The people they serve are poor, and isolated.

After our work, fifteen of us flew south to visit Iguazu Falls, both from the Brazilian side and from the Argentinian side. I also stayed an extra two nights in Manaus, with my friend and classmate, Sara. We had one day to experience the Amazon River and to swim with the pink dolphins.

I have attached a few pictures: a map to show where we worked from, the medical boat we were on and some other photos.















And Barbara and friends with the Pink Dolphins

Live simply, Love wholly, Give generously, Care deeply, Speak kindly.

Our new Prior, who will take over at our September Investiture, will be George Jackowski  
[GJackowski@pivotaltherapeutics.us](mailto:GJackowski@pivotaltherapeutics.us)

Here is a short CV on Sir George and you will see he's a very busy man...

George Jackowski, Ph.D., KCTJ  
Founder, Chief Science Officer of Pivotal Therapeutics Inc.



Dr. Jackowski has been instrumental in the founding of 12 biotechnology companies in his career, four of which became publicly traded. Furthermore, he has contributed to the creation of 12 additional biotechnology companies. He is responsible for the creation of over 1,000 high tech jobs in a hard to fund biotech sector. He has led a diverse team of 150 scientists from R&D, Development, Manufacturing and Regulatory that have cleared over 25 products through the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and commercialized them globally. He has grown companies to market caps of over \$350 million, raised from public capital markets over \$125 million and completed numerous deals with Big Pharma of over \$100 million USD in transactions.

Dr. Jackowski currently is the Chief Science Officer of Pivotal Therapeutics Inc. and directs the Research and Development program. He holds Directorships in numerous biotech companies. Prior to creating Pivotal, he was founder, Chairman, CEO and CSO at SynX Pharma Inc. He has served as the Chairman of Bio Canada Connect, a Board Member of the Ontario BIOCouncil and on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Stroke Network. Dr Jackowski has been a delegate in a recent State Visit to the Republic of Poland by Their Excellencies The Right Honourable David Johnston Governor General of Canada and Mrs. Sharon Johnston and participated in Round Table discussions on Canada-Poland: Development and Support of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Dr. Jackowski has also served on many federal and provincial governmental biotechnology committees and is on the Scientific Board of Advisors for the Innovation Cluster, Trent University. Dr. Jackowski has been intimately involved in the enforcement of patent claims, patent litigation and patent interference proceedings.

As one of the pioneers of Canadian Biotech over the past thirty five years, Dr. George Jackowski was recently recognized and awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his significant contribution to the Canadian Biotech and Pharmaceutical Industries by the Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Dr. Jackowski also received the 1996 MEDEC Award for Medical Achievement for his invention of the Cardiac STATus™ CK-MB/Myoglobin / Troponin Card Test. He developed and holds the patents on the rapid format immunoassays measuring cardiac enzymes generating over \$500 Million in yearly Sales Worldwide, in particularly Troponin, which aids in the early diagnosis of myocardial infarction and is commercialized worldwide in hospital emergency rooms.

Dr. Jackowski, a respected cardiovascular biochemist, was trained at the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the University of California, San Francisco, and at the Department of Clinical Biochemistry at the University of Toronto. Dr. Jackowski held academic positions at the University of Toronto in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and the Departments of Surgery and Cardiology. He also held an Academic Staff position and was an MRC Scholar at The Research Institute, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto. He currently holds an academic position at the Florida Atlantic University, the Centre for Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. His scientific resume includes authoring 44 publications and 61 abstracts, holding over 170 patents filed and issued.  
END.

In addition Neven will be promoted to Chancellor, Samantha as secretary and Eugene as treasurer.

Templar Ball

We had approximately 150 people attend and enjoy the Annual Templar Ball at Fountain Blue. This year's theme was in support of Anti Trafficking human smuggling work that Sir Kim Derry and Sir

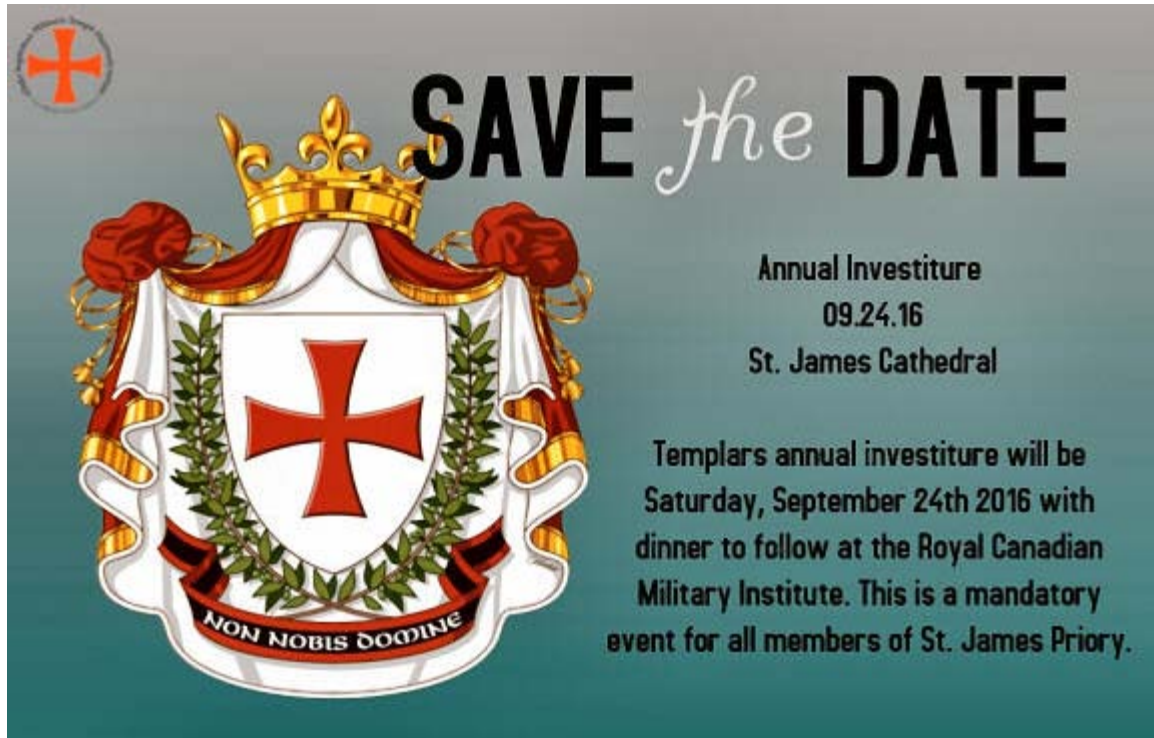
James Brown are focusing on. We had a great silent auction and the Dinner raised \$6,416.

Inspire - Professional Assassinations

The Enemy is very well organized. And have an aggressive marketing strategy.

Our Knights and Dames should be made aware of this (if they don't already know) and this can be downloaded at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/religion/inspire15.pdf>



**SAVE *the* DATE**

**Annual Investiture**  
**09.24.16**  
**St. James Cathedral**

**Templars annual investiture will be Saturday, September 24th 2016 with dinner to follow at the Royal Canadian Military Institute. This is a mandatory event for all members of St. James Priory.**

Annual Investiture 24th September 2016

This is a mandatory event for members of St James Priory  
In the event you can't attend you must contact the Prior for his permission



*Priory of St.  
James*



**SUMMER** *Social*

Monday June 27th 2016 6pm-8pm

*Royal Canadian Military Institute*  
426 University Ave. Toronto ON, M5G 1S9

Bring Interested Parties. Dress Code: Business Casual, Cash Bar

Send RSVP's to [Sm@trgoc.com](mailto:Sm@trgoc.com)

News from the Priory of Simon Peter, Ottawa

We heard from the Prior in which he stated...

"I'm very sorry, but we have had to cancel our convent and investiture yet again. The final straw was me; I am in the civic hospital with a lung infection, high blood pressure and a fast heartbeat."



"I should be out pretty soon, but will not be back in shape to do ceremonial or any other physically demanding work for some time, until I get my cardiovascular system under control with medicines."

I'm sure we all wish him a speedy recovery.

This spring was a busy time for members of this Priory. As a result of sudden illness, the Spring Convent had to be delayed but in spite of that we are moving upward.

On May 1, our members visited the Goulding Park Arena in Toronto where a huge donation of used hockey equipment was made by members of their hockey association.



Ann-Marie, Stephanie and Angus from the Goulding Park Hockey Association saying good-bye to Chev. Frank Garbutt and a huge pile of hockey equipment bound for the north with the "Hockey Knights" program of the Priory of Simon Peter.

June is month of the Aphasia "Walk 'n Talk" This program raises funds to assist those whose lasting effects of Cerebral Stroke include the loss of speech. This year, our knights will assist in setting up the venue and provide a lunch that can be consumed using only one hand. We are looking forward to the preparation and execution of this annual event.

Several social events are also in the planning stages including a "Wine Tasting" to take place after the "Walk 'n Talk".

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## Chaplain's Corner

From Archdeacon Ron Matthewman, Vicar General of OSMTH-I

In this Edition of "The Newsletter" I share with you part of my Presentation at the OSMTH-I Retreat held in Copenhagen in April of this year.

I want to tell you how very impressed and inspired I was to see the magnificent Golden Replica of the Ark of The Covenant placed and used as the Tabernacle on the High Altar of the Cathedral in Cologne when I visited there last Fall.

The Ark of the Covenant was built on the instruction of Moses to carry the two tablets of stone on which were inscribed the Ten Commandments, which Moses had received from God on Mount Sinai, and was carried by the Children of Israel as they journeyed to the Promised Land. The Ark kept them focused on the fact that they were God's Chosen People, and their goal and destination was to be with God.

As Christian people we have that same goal; to be with God, and our destination is the Kingdom of Heaven. The Lord's Prayer takes us a step closer – as we pray to experience the Kingdom of God, "on earth as it is in heaven".

Distracted by many earthly things, we must never lose our focus on heavenly things; which means we are to experience and recognize God, not remotely in a far of Heaven, but on earth as He comes to abide with us in our daily living where heaven and earth are one. Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven is not only our prayer it is our ambition.

God sent his Son Jesus Christ, not to be the Saviour of Heaven but to be the Saviour of the world; to be our Saviour, to guide us on our journey towards The Kingdom. We are born of God, and through Jesus Christ we find "The way, the truth and the Life" which brings us to Life Eternal.

At the top of the Mount of the Transfiguration we eavesdrop on a conversation between Jesus and his disciples Peter, James and John, on that day when Jesus was transfigured before them. With Peter we find ourselves saying "Lord it is good for us to be here". Let that be our Mante – in our daily living as we relate to God "Lord, it is good for us to be here".

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## Grand Chancellors Corner

Greetings my colleagues and friends: the Dames and Knights of the OSMTH Priory of Canada . . .

Having reported on a number of issues over the past few years, to-day's Chancellor's Corner is devoted to my accountability to you. As Grand Chancellor and soon to be Grand Prior, I want to share with you my vision for the future of our Order. These ideas have developed over the past four years in this role -- and over a dozen years as a Templar.

It goes without saying that first and foremost, the Order's overall health and future is central to all plans and decisions. That has been my guiding motive as I have developed my priorities based on both the needs I see and the talents I bring to the table.

### COMMUNICATIONS

We need to talk to each other more. We live in a vast country where getting together is both costly and time-consuming. Being together for an Annual Meeting is important . . . but we need to use modern communications to fill in the times in between. There is no reason not to follow the international example and use Skype to involve all Priors in the decision-making of the Grand Priory. No reason why the Treasurers couldn't meet on line to ensure that their reports can be compared and transparency is the keynote of our charitable giving. New Officers of all ranks, can get answers not only from their individual predecessors but also from others who fill those roles in other priories. Some priories excel at some things . . . others in other directions. We need to learn from each other.

In my experience, monthly meetings keep things moving. The knowledge that one has to report back to others on what has been done is a great motivator. I want to see the Grand Priory using modern communications to ensure that kind of activity and accountability.

Technology is our friend. But we are not utilizing it as well as we could. We need to meet together on-line. The Grand Priory needs a two-way exchange

### AWARENESS of OUR MEMBERSHIP

Individually we have great talents within our membership rolls but we need a national talent inventory of skills and interests. On a national level we do not know our members well enough . . . or what they have to offer the Order. Or what their individual dreams are for their involvement.

We need more training and mentoring as people assume new offices and projects. We need to build upon the talents and experience of Templars to build a strong and ever enlarging presence locally, nationally and internationally.

### GROWING the ORDER

We need to better understand who becomes a Templar. Who stays a Templar? And WHY? So we need to be gathering more information from our membership and looking at where we are succeeding; or not. What expectations do we meet and where we disappoint?

### INSIGNIA

I would like to see us acknowledge and reward members who embark on pilgrimages whether of the Holy Places that our predecessors committed themselves to access and provide safe passage for others. And those who travel to ancient sites of significance to our Order's founding and existence throughout Europe. Members who engage in such travels and return to inform and teach our membership about their experiences should be recognized.

#### INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Other than Windsor, there are very few members who regularly attend international meetings . . . and until we do, we will lack the influence we could otherwise have. I know that it is expensive, but there is no better way to gain an understanding of what our Order is all about. And without local interest in what is happening internationally, our members will never feel truly integrated into a movement that has influence far beyond our members and international respect from those with whom Templars interact. Those who travel to international meetings to represent Canada, or meet with Priors in other countries, are a great asset and should be recognized and encouraged.

#### OUR SPIRITUAL ROOTS

There is a clear Christian component to our Order and I would like to see the two dates of martyrdom – the day of the arrests and the final two executions observed. Material needs to be developed and made available to the Priors and Commanderies (historical, liturgical, etc.) so that an event can be planned annually or a service held or a fund raiser tied to it or just a letter from each Prior to his/her members asking that they remember the day in their prayers. We have a proud history and such events remind members what they admired or perhaps brought them to belong to the Templars.

In the Tomar Castle, Portugal, last year and at the Monastery of St Bridget in Maribo, Denmark this year, a Retreat was held for three days before the Grand Magistral Council Meeting. They were delights of engagement and refreshment. Highly to be recommended and not to be compared with any preconceived notion of imposed silence and discipline that seems to be the common perception of a retreat. Given that our own Reverend Canon Sir Ron Matthewman and Padre Sir Pertti de Reso were in charge of the events, networking, fine food and drink and speakers were assured.

#### A BUSINESS MODEL

I suppose it comes from being a lawyer: but I like regular, predictable, meetings and minutes of meetings and financial statements that are accessible to everyone . . . those who attended and those who were unable to do so.

It isn't a big change, but it helps defeat the distance that interferes with us seeing each other as often as we would like.

Now that you have heard my interests, concerns and possible solutions, I hope you will share with me where you would like to see our Order moving or changing or continuing . . . let's get a head-start on improving communications. I can be found at 416 466 0311, [ncrewe@mtsinai.on.ca](mailto:ncrewe@mtsinai.on.ca) or [stmonance@hotmail.com](mailto:stmonance@hotmail.com) and snail mail finds me at 74 Riverdale Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4K 1C3.

I look forward to working with you on the joys and challenges that lie ahead.

God bless  
nnDnn

Nola

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## International News on the work of OSMTH

The Mountain of the House of the Lord: Utah Priory  
Got in a copy of the Convent and Investiture Handbook May 2016 (pdf) which you can download at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/religion/Ciprogram.pdf>

The Modern Order

In 1995, the majority of OSMTH Templars (mostly grouped in the Grand Priors of Austria, France,

Italy, Finland, England & Wales, Scotland, NATO and the USA) assembled in the Austrian town of Salzburg and democratically adopted several resolutions to restructure and modernize the Order. One of the landmark decisions was to withdraw recognition from the Regent of the Order, Fernando de Sousa Fontes, because of mismanagement and irregular conduct. (Those few who refused to abide by the democratic decision are presently known as OSMTH-Regency.) The present OSMTH is therefore the largest and best organized Templar group to date. It is an apolitical, not-for-profit organization registered in Geneva, Switzerland, under Federal Registry number CH-660.197299-4.

Each grand priory is patriotic, being committed to the betterment of the host country. Our Order is devoted to the preservation of Liberty, which is essential to freedom of conscience and religion for all and to the efficient performances of good works. But the principal mission of the modern Templars is Charity. The Order accomplishes its mission through charitable works (both locally and in the Holy Land), which help people to help themselves, thereby enhancing Hope.

The virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity are the guiding lights of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, whose members wish to SERVE, just as the original knights had served. The motto of the Order, "Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed Nomini Tuo ad gloriam" is from Psalm 115 verse 1 - "Not for us, Lord, not for us, but to Thy name give glory."

Today the Order is a secular-military order of chivalry - a Knighthood which is intended for accomplished Christian military and civilian men (Knights) and women (Dames), who have demonstrated that they possess high ethical and moral principles and who wish to carry on the traditions of the Temple.

As an example of an OSMTH grand priory, the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, incorporated in the United States, is autonomous and independent. It recognizes the Constitution and statutes of the United States as sovereign and temporally supreme public law. The Order, in an age of materialism and secular humanism, seeks, by reconstituting an ancient chivalric order, to adopt an organization of proven effectiveness in capturing the allegiance and spirit of dedicated leaders, and to show that spiritual idealism is most certainly relevant and not inconsistent with a sensibility for tradition, nor inconsistent with patriotism or civic duty.

The word, not the sword, is the weapon of modern Templars. We use it to serve peace, to help the oppressed, to assist Brothers and Sisters, to promote education, and to promote and propagate those values that represent the best of the christian, humanistic and chivalrous traditions. But of course, action must follow smart words...

NOTE: There are more than 1700 groups in the world calling themselves 'Templars' or 'Knights Templar' which is a name they can freely use. OSMTH (Sovereign Military Order of the temple of Jerusalem) however is not associated with any one of them and our Logos and Coat of Arms are protected by trademark registration.

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Nola Crewe, Chaplain for ICU and NICU, Chaplaincy

Excellence in Humanitarian Behaviour Award

Here is \the page about our Grand Chancellor of Canada...



### **Nola Crewe**

Chaplain for ICU and NICU, Chaplaincy

#### **Excellence in Humanitarian Behaviour**

Ofentimes the role of the Chaplain is such that they respond to the spiritual and religious needs of patients and families when consulted. Nola Crewe works with patients, families and staff who are confronted by very complex life threatening situations. She maintains an active role in the ICU such that she proactively learns about the needs and challenges of patients, families and staff and works to support them in difficult and dire situations. Nola is truly one of a kind. She gets to know each patient and family in the ICU and is often able to share pertinent pieces of information with the rest of the health care team.

It is not unusual to hear Nola advocating for a patient to be moved to a room with a window to improve their experience with hospitalization and to assist in their recovery. Nola is aware not only when patients and families are experiencing difficulties with coping but she stays abreast of coping challenges among staff to proactively support them as well.

Nola routinely goes above and beyond her role each and every day and the examples above are reflective of this. It is not unusual for Nola to come in on her days off including weekends to support patients, families and staff as they deal with or prepare to deal with the loss of a patient. She is compassionate and passionate about her work; she makes a substantive difference in the lives of others she meets. She is hard working, committed with a purpose and is a tremendous asset to the units and hospital.

Here is the text from the above graphic...

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You can read about this award at:

<http://read.uberflip.com/i/671950-karen-mcgibbon-awards-of-excellence-seymour-schulich-honorariums-2015/0>

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I'm sure we all wish our Grand Chancellor our many congratulation for getting this well deserved award.

The Hidden World of the Knights Templar  
From the BBC

Tucked behind London's Fleet Street, a patchwork of gardens and graceful buildings tell the story of the most famous knights of the Crusades.

It was rush hour on a weekday and I was weaving my way down the Strand, one of central London's most famous thoroughfares. The street hummed with tourists, students and lawyers. Double-decker buses rattled. Cyclists sweated. Black cabs swerved.

Just east of where the Strand turns into Fleet Street, beyond the 19th-century legal bookshop of Wildy and Sons, stood a small stone archway. Compared to the imposing structure above it – a timber-framed, Jacobean townhouse – it was almost unnoticeable. I turned in.



Here, on tiny Inner Temple Lane, was a hidden world, one that was lovely, leafy and serene, overlooked by graceful Gothic and Victorian buildings and patchworked with gardens and miniature courtyards.

The area, known as Temple, remains far less known to tourists than other nearby attractions like St Paul's Cathedral or Trafalgar Square. And most of those who do find their way here don't realise Temple's biggest secret: this whole area was once the stronghold of the Knights Templar.

The medieval order, known for their role in the Crusades and as one of the Middle Ages' most powerful and wealthy religious orders, lived, prayed and worked here from about 1185 up until their dissolution in 1312.

They built monastic dormitories, chambers and two dining halls – now known as Middle Temple Hall and Inner Temple Hall, though they've been rebuilt many times over the years – and, most famously, Temple Church.



“They lived right here,” said Robin Griffith-Jones, the reverend of Temple Church and a historian of the Knights Templar. (In a sign of how historic and traditional this area is, his official title is Reverend and Valiant Master of the Temple). “The hall of the Templars was what is Inner Temple hall now – right over there. And the priest's house was where my house is.”

In 1120, Christian knights had just captured Jerusalem in the First Crusade. But even while the holy city was safe, the pilgrimage routes to get there were not. Travellers were routinely attacked, robbed and even killed.

A handful of knights took monastic vows and devoted themselves to protecting the pilgrims and their routes. In return, the king of Jerusalem gave them headquarters on the Temple Mount. The Knights Templar was born and they were soon world-renowned for their courage.

“They were a very disciplined fighting force – and hugely self-sacrificial. If there was a disaster in battle, they were decimated. They didn’t run away. They just got killed,” said Griffith-Jones.

They also became extraordinarily rich. As well as owning land and other assets, they didn’t have to pay tithes. They were also the first to issue what today we would call cheques. If a pilgrim was leaving home, they could give the Templars all the money they’d want in the Holy Land, get a promissory note in return and collect that amount when they arrived. By 1191, they were so wealthy they were able to buy the island of Cyprus.

Little surprise then that by the mid-12th Century they needed a grander headquarters for their London chapter. By 1185, they had built Temple Church.

Today Temple Church doesn’t seem that grand, particularly when compared to nearby St Paul’s or Westminster Abbey. The surrounding buildings dwarf it, making its dome invisible from just a short distance. The circular nave in the west, which was built first, is just 17m in diameter. There is no elaborate gold gilding, no side chapels, no mosaic or paintings.

But as a round church modelled after the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (there are only three others in Britain), Temple Church had one of the grandest claims of them all: to those in the Middle Ages, walking through it was the closest you could get to Jerusalem without actually undertaking the dangerous pilgrimage to get there.



Inside, the round nave has the fortress-like walls, small windows and heavy, pointed arches of the early Gothic. Effigies of some of the knights – including William Marshal of Pembroke, without whom England’s Magna Carta may not exist – lie grasping their swords in the stone.

The ‘new’ chancel, built 65 years later, extended the church east, this time with all the hallmarks of the fully-flowered Gothic style: thin, graceful columns, wide-span arches and huge windows that flooded the interior with light.

In the time of the Knights Templar, the painted walls and metal-plated ceiling would have shimmered in the candlelight. The floor was tiled. There were probably banners down the columns. And the windows, now mostly plain, may have been made of stained glass.

It was in that lovely, light-filled environment that the English order of the Knights Templar would meet and worship. It was also here that they would be initiated into the order. According to charges levied against them in 1307, when King Philip IV ordered the arrest of the Templars in France, the initiation rites included spitting on the cross, denying Christ, and kissing each other on the mouth, belly button and base of the spine.

By that point, the knights were no longer needed as crusaders. Their military stronghold of Acre, in present-day Syria, had fallen in 1291. The knights were still engaging in smaller-scale raids, but the Crusades had effectively ended – and, for the Church, had not ended well.

As well as no longer having any military purpose, the Knights Templars’ wealth had made them potential enemies of some powerful people – including King Philip IV, who owed them a vast sum of money.

The charges of devil-worship in their initiation rites quickly followed. Scores of knights were arrested

on Friday 13 October 1307, and those who wouldn't confess were burned at the stake. The rest scattered. In 1312, the order was dissolved.

The land at Temple went to the Knights Hospitaller, another military religious order. That order leased the land to lawyers in 1346, and today the Temple area is well known to England's barristers, all of whom must belong to one of London's four Inns of Court – medieval legal associations – in order to practice. Two of these Inns of Court, the Inner Temple and Middle Temple, are based here.

The Inner Temple still has a section of its medieval hall, complete with 15th-century fireplace. And with its hammer-beam ceiling and rich oil paintings, Middle Temple's hall is largely what it would have looked like when it was built under Queen Elizabeth in 1562.

Today, though, you'll see London's barristers walking through the courtyards with small, rolling suitcases – the preferred method for transporting the stiff horsehair wigs they have to don at court. And visitors can usually peek in over lunch hours, or – better – advance book a tour of the Inner Temple.

Until 13 years ago, hardly any tourists came to this area at all. "It was the classic hidden gem," said Griffith-Jones. "Part of its joy is that it is really tucked away: it's as if you go into a secret garden as soon as you come in from Fleet Street. It is absolutely, ravishingly beautiful. And it was a disappointment to us that London's residents, the people who work here, the people who visit it, so few knew about it."

But then a certain novel was published.

"One Monday morning [in 2003], there was a queue of young Americans standing outside the door," Griffith-Jones said. "The verger opens up and they ask him, 'Have you read the book?' And of course the verger thinks they're talking about the Bible."

Instead, they were talking about Dan Brown's Da Vinci Code. It would turn out to be one of the most popular novels of the 21st Century – and one of its main scenes was set at Temple Church.

In those boom years, the church saw around 500 visitors every day.

However, those days seem to be over. When I was there, there were just two families and a couple wandering through the space.

Today, Temple Church – and Temple – are back to feeling like a hidden world in the heart of London, one that's serene and rich with secrets.

And that, in many ways, feels how it should be.

See more pictures at:

<http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20160510-the-hidden-world-of-the-knights-templar>

Editors Note:

When I found this story I found another which you also might enjoy reading at:

<http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20150706-the-hidden-haven-in-the-heart-of-london>

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Canon Andrew White

Canon Andrew White in the UK

Dear Friends,

I am back in the UK and it has been brilliant. The day after I landed, I met with the Chairman of Voice of the Martyrs Canada, Peter Jardine, and Rev. Malcolm MacLeod. They flew all the way from Ontario to talk with me about the persecuted church in the Middle East. You can learn more about Voice of the Martyrs Canada at <https://www.vomcanada.com/>



Last week I spoke at St Mary's in Orpington and St Giles in Northampton. Both churches are very supportive of our Iraqi brothers and sisters in Christ and I was very happy to share our work with them. I even managed to get a group selfie with the congregation at St Giles.



I was also invited to speak at a Generation 2 Generation conference at Moggerhanger Park in Bedfordshire. G2G is a wonderful organisation that seeks to bring Yesua back into the public sphere and share his message with the next generation. They have been doing this work for many years and I was happy to speak at their event.

I then visited Bridge Church St Ives and the Cambridge Community Church. I trained for the priesthood at Ridley Hall – Cambridge University's theological college – and it was great being back in the place where I studied. Coincidentally, my son Yossi is now also studying theology at Cambridge University.

I will shortly be off to Jerusalem where I will be speaking at the 19th Passover Convocation in Jerusalem's Old City alongside a host of other speakers. I am really looking forward to it!

May

Update from Northern Iraq / site of Christ's baptism  
Posted by FRRME STAFF on MAY 19, 2016.



Every month FRRME directly supports over 50 IDP families in Erbil, providing free medical care and living expenses. We also employ some of the IDPs to help us deliver emergency relief, paying them a monthly stipend of \$50.

IDPs arrive in the camps every day and so we have expanded our relief program.

This month, we have delivered over 3,000 food packages across Kurdistan. These packages contain staples of the Iraqi diet, including flat bread and dairy products such as Qishta (sweet cream).

In recognition of our work, The Barzani Charity Foundation (set up by Masrsour Barzani – Chancellor of the Kurdistan Region Security Council) to help displaced Iraqis, presented FRRME with a plaque which we were honoured to accept.

In addition to relief provision, we are also working on getting IDPs back on their feet. We recently cleared a space in Harsham Camp in Erbil so that IDPs can sell and buy goods. Over time, we hope that the IDPs in our care will rebuild their confidence and develop the means by which to support themselves.

#### Site of Christ's baptism

Last week, FRRME was invited to support Halo Trust's latest project – removing mines from seven churches in Qaser al-Yahud on the West Bank, the site of Christ's baptism. FRRME's President, Canon Andrew White, attended the site with Halo Trust's Chief Executive, Major General J M Cowen, and we will be supporting their efforts to raise money for the project.

Peace and Love,  
Dr Sarah Ahmed  
Director of Operations in the Middle East

Read more of his activities at <http://frrme.org/news/>

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## International News

### Battle of Jutland centenary marked

A service at St Magnus Cathedral in Orkney paid tribute to the 8,648 sailors who died during the Battle of Jutland.

Representatives of all the other nations connected to the battle - Australia, Canada, Ireland, Japan, Malta, New Zealand and South Africa - were at the cathedral.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-36390168>

### Scotland backs remaining in EU as breaking poll pushes Brexit into the lead

WITH under a month until the EU referendum a new poll from The Guardian/ICM puts the likelihood of Brexit ahead of Remain in both online and phone polling data.

ICM's director, Martin Boon stated: "It is only one poll, but in a rather unexpected reverse of polling assumptions so far, both our phone poll and our online poll are consistent on both vote intentions and on the EU referendum."

The poll, which took place from the 29th-30th May, shows a 52-48 split in favour of leaving the EU, however the data shows a majority in Scotland still back remaining, according to the report from the Guardian.

This could mean that in the event of a vote to leave the European Union Scotland could be pulled out against its will.

Following a debate last week in the Scottish Parliament in which all five party leaders and co-convenors spoke in favour of remaining in the EU, Scottish MSPs voted overwhelmingly to back a

Remain vote. Only a few voices from the Labour and Conservative ranks spoke against.

Upon the news breaking the value of the pound was reported as dropping drastically.

A previous ICM poll had the vote for Remain 10 points in the lead, however as the referendum has approached the polls have tightened.

Voters will be heading the polling stations on June 23rd to decide whether or not the UK will remain a part of the European Union.

Human trafficking laws now in force

Scotland's efforts to tackle human trafficking and improve support for victims of the despicable crime have been strengthened with new measures in force from today.

The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 includes the possibility of a sentence of life imprisonment for those convicted of human trafficking or slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.

Police and the courts will also have new powers to confiscate and seize property used for human trafficking. Courts will also be able to impose longer sentences for other crimes which involve trafficking, where trafficking is committed by a public official, or when the victim is a child.

Cabinet Secretary for Justice Michael Matheson said:

“The measures coming into force today sends the strongest possible message that those who seek to profit from human suffering will not be tolerated in Scotland.

“The trafficking and exploitation of vulnerable adults and children is an appalling crime that brings misery and potential long term consequences for its victims.

“The new offence of trafficking will ensure perpetrators will face the toughest possible penalties while also providing greater protections for their victims.

“We are also clarifying and strengthening the criminal law around trafficking and exploitation, and giving police and prosecutors further tools to track down and prosecute criminals.

“However, legislation alone will not stop trafficking which is why we are developing a Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy to build on the work already being undertaken to increase public awareness and help businesses and staff spot the signs of potential trafficking and exploitation.”

Why camels mean more than just money to Gaza's Bedouin

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Despite the difficulties that hinder camel breeding in the Gaza Strip, such as the scarcity of green pastures and ongoing urban sprawl, Bedouin families continue to breed camels as part of their heritage. To them, camels are a source of income and livelihood, while camel yogurt is used medicinally.

Read more at:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/05/gaza-camel-breeding-wealth-bedouins.html#ixzz49yfuOE1v>

China is super-sizing science

From building the biggest experiments the world has ever seen to rolling out the latest medical advances on a massive scale and pushing the boundaries of exploration from the deepest ocean to outer space - China's scientific ambitions are immense.

Read this article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/1dt-0192822d-14f1-432b-bd25-92eab6466362>

Muslims of France

What challenges have generations of immigrants faced in a country torn between secularism and

religious diversity?

Read more and watch a video at:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/specialseries/2013/12/muslims-france-2013122082835640302.html>

Five ways to survive a three-generation household

Multigenerational homes are expected to become more common over the next decade. So what's it like to have grandparents, parents and children living under the same roof?

Clare Badham, 53, shares her home with partner Rob Breeze, 45, 13-year-old son Jove - and her parents, Roy and Oriel Simpson, aged 84 and 83 respectively.

This set-up might not be for everyone, but it could be the model for more families in the future. Insurance company Aviva forecasts the number of households containing two or more families will rise from 1.5 million to 2.2 million by 2025.

The study also anticipates 3.8 million people aged between 21 and 34 will be living with their parents - a third more than at present.

Read this article at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-36396217>

Leaked Information on Negotiations between EU and USA to set up a Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP)

Leaked documents from EU / USA negotiations on the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) confirm the dangers threatened to health, environment and safety standards. The documents are from the twelfth round of negotiations in February 2016 (the thirteenth round concluded in New York on 29 April). The EU Commission had slapped a thirty year ban on public access to the negotiating texts at the beginning of the talks in 2013, in the full knowledge that they would not be able to survive the outcry if people were given sight of the deal. In response, campaigners called for a "Dracula strategy" against the agreement: expose the vampire to sunlight and it will die. The purpose of the two proposed "partnerships," TTIP and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which were drafted by global corporations, is to make corporations immune to the laws of sovereign countries in which they do business. Any country's sovereign law or regulations—whether social, environmental, food safety, or labour protection—that might adversely affect a corporation's profits is labelled a "restraint on trade." The "partnerships" would permit corporations to take legal action to overturn the law or regulation, and would also award damages to the corporation—paid by the taxpayers of the country that tried to protect its environment or the safety of its food or its workers. These "trade agreements" originate in the United States, because American global corporations and the American mega-banks are the largest players in the world economy. The agreements that the corporations push through this process give these companies economic hegemony over the countries that sign the agreements. The Trans-Atlantic and TransPacific "partnerships" are tools of American financial imperialism. The highly controversial investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism—and its successor, the Investment Court system—has proved particularly thorny. The United States wants to keep the arbitration system that allows corporations to sue governments for perceived loss of profits. The case is not heard in the courts of the country, or in any court: it is heard in a corporate tribunal in which corporations act as prosecutor, judge, and jury.

There are some 51,000 American-owned subsidiaries operating in the EU. About 47,000 of them would be empowered to launch attacks on European policies in international tribunals, according to the anti-poverty charity 'War on Want'. German magistrates in February had also declared the new version of the investor court system (ICS), proposed by the EU, to be unlawful. Concerns about potential effects on food safety standards have plagued TTIP since its inception, notably in discussions on genetically modified organisms. The EU applies a precautionary approach to GM goods. Where the EU regulates to protect the public from potential harm, the United States seeks to manage rather than avoid risk. The EU commissioner for trade, Cecilia Malmström, described the leaks in her blog as "a storm in a teacup." She told the BBC: "I am simply not in the business of lowering standards." Some 1,600 cities, municipalities and regions in Europe have already declared themselves TTIP-free zones. Most of these are in Austria, Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, the

Netherlands, and Spain. And earlier this month a survey by Yougov suggested that German public support for TTIP had fallen from 55% two years ago to 17%. This news came out before tens of thousands of people in the German city of Hannover marched against the deal during an international trade fair attended by Barack Obama.

See the attached PDF file "TTIP Leaks", below, for full revelation:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/independence/TTIPLeaks.pdf>

The ring is slowly closing around the fanatics

By James Wilkie

Editor's Note: Dr James Wilkie told me... "the article is completely definitive as of a fortnight ago, when I attended a conference on the state of the CTB treaty with CTBTO Executive Secretary Massimo Zerbo and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at UN Vienna.

I promised Massima that I would compact the information into a tour d'horizon of UN WMD policy that he could also use elsewhere, while bringing Scotland up to state of the art level on relevant information."

The Scots are not the only people in the world with an aversion to weapons of mass destruction. The classic WMDs are biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, two of which have actually been used in armed conflict. Radiological weapons have more recently been added to the list of horrors, but as far as is publicly known have never actually been manufactured. Not much is heard about the first two these days, probably because governments have realised that they are two-edged swords, that their use could trigger a cross-border holocaust that could hit the user as much as an enemy.

The 1975 United Nations Biological Weapons Convention (short title), which bans the possession and use of biological and toxin devices ('germ warfare'), has been signed and ratified by 173 states. An additional nine states have signed the BWC, but have not yet ratified. Its effectiveness has been limited by the fact that no special organisation to enforce its implementation has been set up, although support for this was virtually unanimous, because the United States under George Bush walked out of the negotiations, silently hailed by Iran and Pakistan. Adherence to the convention is presently supervised from United Nations HQ Geneva. Further related biological research, for instance at Porton Down in England, is now directed mainly towards methods of defence against the use of such weapons, perhaps by terrorists, and biological dangers in general.

The 1997 UN Chemical Weapons Convention that outlaws the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their precursors has been signed by 192 UN member states (Israel has still to ratify, while Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan have not signed). Here, by contrast, the UN has set up an independent Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) that, from its headquarters in the Hague, is quietly supervising the destruction of all such weapons worldwide, with the cooperation of stockholders.

This is not an overnight task – dismantling these weapons and disposing of their lethal contents is a lengthy and extremely hazardous business, and has to be taken slowly. Nonetheless, the success of the United Nations when it is allowed to work without obstruction is demonstrated by the fact that, by October 2015, about 90% of all the declared stockpile of chemical weapons in the world had been destroyed under supervision by the OPCW, and work is continuing to get rid of the remainder.

Radiological weapons are the latest horror scenario, eminently practical even although they exist only in theory at the moment. The most basic such radiological dispersion device is the so-called 'dirty bomb' with a core of conventional explosive surrounded by a mantle of radioactive material. This would be distributed far and wide by the force of the explosion, which is itself of secondary importance, thereby poisoning a huge area and all life within it.

The Armageddon variant, known as a 'salted bomb', would use a nuclear core surrounded by a charge of material like cobalt (there are several other possibilities) that would be highly irradiated by the nuclear detonation. The radiation would be spread far more widely than by a dirty bomb, and could turn an entire country into an uninhabitable desert for all the foreseeable future, depending on the half-life of the fissile material used.

Radiological weapons are a spectre that is haunting defence and security authorities worldwide. The theory has been intensely studied, but no action has been taken to date towards outlawing such weapons. The moment any concrete plan to construct such a weapon has come to light the international community will react swiftly and decisively, but for the meantime there is still work to be done on ordinary nuclear weapons.

The worldwide unanimous condemnation of biological and chemical weapons has almost – but not quite – been repeated in the case of their straight atomic counterparts, whether of the fission or fusion (hydrogen bomb) variety. There is considerable strength of feeling amongst governments worldwide on the subject of nuclear weapons, and resentment towards the handful of states that stubbornly retain them. The entire rest of the world wants to see them abolished.

Unfortunately, there are politico-diplomatic factors in play here. The nukes are militarily useless, the former Cold War adversaries are now on the same side, and any regime that actually used them would be signing its own death warrant, even without a nuclear retaliation.

Who is going to incinerate hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians in order to teach a lesson to a handful of members of an oppressive regime? To date, no terrorists have managed to get their hands on a nuclear warhead, and, if they did mount such an attack, who would deliver a nuclear response, where would it be aimed, and against whom?

It is not that such a danger does not exist, for instance in Pakistan, where Taliban and Al Qaeda forces have been steadily encroaching nearer to Pakistan's nuclear test facilities, but here again the uselessness of threatening nuclear revenge is evident, not least when the perpetrators are more than willing to die for their cause.

That leads to the only remaining uses of nuclear weapons, as diplomatic bargaining counters and as status symbols. The five permanent members of the UN Security Council are the 'official' nuclear-armed states – China, France, the Russian Federation, the UK and US. All of them have an obligation under the 1970 UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons, including their own.

Another four states – India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea – have nuclear weapons technology (although test explosions are no proof of the existence of usable warheads let alone their ballistic delivery vehicles), and Iran had until recently been working towards such a status.

Here the purpose of nukes as status symbols is very evident – at least on the part of politicians and the military, because one cannot imagine the ordinary people of Iran, let alone North Korea, clamouring for such devices. The element of fear of attack is still evident in Israel, and to a diminishing extent elsewhere.

To the North Korean regime, nuclear capacity is also a negotiating factor for other purposes, and that was probably also true for Iran before its recent agreement on nuclear research. With the UK and France it is a prestige matter, and a diplomatic lever for retaining their permanent seats on the UN Security Council, which have long since been overtaken by global developments.

The United Nations is still beaver away at the permanent Conference on Disarmament at UN Geneva. Progress is already evident, especially in the ongoing reduction of the massive Russian and US overkill stockpiles of warheads (dismantling is once again a slow business, this time mainly for political reasons), while massive pressure is being placed on Iran and others to call a halt to any further proliferation. These operations are policed by the International Atomic Energy Agency, based at United Nations HQ Vienna.

That is one side of United Nations policy. The other main effort at the moment is being directed towards stopping nuclear test explosions once and for all. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton have stressed during the UN General Assembly in New York that the UN Comprehensive [Nuclear] Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is of crucial importance, because a ban on test explosions on the surface, underground, in the air or in space effectively puts an end to the further development of nuclear weapons, which is a gigantic step towards their ultimate abolition. It also eliminates further nuclear

pollution of the earth's atmosphere.

The UN member governments enthusiastically share this view. There is no more popular organisation within the United Nations family than the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO). The CTBTO is the organisation that is being set up to police adherence to the treaty. It is one of a small number of international organisations that have fewer financial difficulties than most, such is the massive level of support it enjoys worldwide.

The treaty has currently been signed by 183 states and ratified by 164. However, its demanding entry-into-force provision specifically requires it to be ratified by 44 named 'nuclear technology holder' states. The UK, France and Russia have ratified, but another eight 'listed state' ratifications (by China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and the United States) are still needed before the treaty can finally enter into force. However, only India, Pakistan and North Korea have so far broken the otherwise universally observed de facto moratorium on test explosions.

The US signed the CTBT, but later, under the Bush administration, declined to ratify it. However, the US remains a major financier of the CTBTO PrepComm, based at UN Vienna under its executive secretary, the eminently qualified scientist Massima Zerbo. President Obama still has an uphill battle here to overcome the obstructive legacy of the Bush era, because he has to obtain US ratification by a Republican-dominated Senate that has consistently dragged its feet over the matter. Meantime, a number of states like China are waiting on US ratification before making their own moves.

Meantime, the United Nations has gone ahead with developing its nuclear detection system in advance of final ratification. The CTBTO, even at its preliminary stage of a preparatory commission, is installing 337 sensor stations all round the world to ensure that no nuclear explosion can go undetected. These detectors fall into four main categories: primary and auxiliary seismic; infrasonic; hydro acoustic (sonar); and radionuclide, some with noble gas detection, and with a number of radionuclide laboratories.

One seismic station is located in Scotland, at Eskdalemuir in the Borders. This network, more than 90% of which is already in place and functioning, alerts the CTBTO at UN Vienna within seconds of a nuclear event occurring anywhere between the North and South Poles and all round the equator (one station is situated right at the South Pole itself). The Security Council can then decide on sanctions or other measures against the offending state.

The mind-blowing high-tech monitoring system, using the world's most advanced technologies, also has a number of secondary functions, like tsunami early warning and others. Scientists all round the world, who receive the results automatically in real time, are unanimously enthusiastic about having such a holistic view of the state of the planet that is available from no other source.

The status of the UK within this general scenario should be obvious. It has a treaty obligation to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons, including its own, and not to update them. It is the politico-diplomatic consequences of abandoning nuclear weapons that are uppermost in government minds in London, because from the military standpoint they are utterly useless and a waste of resources. As former Russian President Michael Gorbachev pointed out, they are deterring nobody, because they can never be used.

The United Nations continues to consolidate the advances that have been achieved to date by ensuring that there is no retreat from the progress that has already been made towards the final and irreversible extirpation of all these abominations. We are still some way off from complete abolition of CBRN weapons of mass destruction, but the ring is slowly closing around the fanatics.

James Wilkie is an author and former diplomat

Pro-Rouhani candidates scoop up most seats in runoff

After having controlled Iran's legislature for more than a decade, hard-liners have resolutely been hit with a big defeat in the country's parliamentary elections. In the first round of voting on Feb. 26, Reformists and moderates got massive support and secured complete victory in the Iranian capital. All of Tehran's 30 seats were won by the joint Reformist-moderate ticket.

Overall, the Feb. 26 vote gave Reformists and moderates 83 out of parliament's 290 seats, while the Principlists got 64 and independents won 55. In many cities other than Tehran, elections went to a second round as a number of candidates failed to gain the necessary 25% quorum of votes. The runoff, which was held April 29, was over the 68 remaining seats — lesser in number than the first round, but nevertheless momentous since it determines whether one side will have a majority.

The results of the runoff have baffled the hard-liners as much as the outcome of the first round. Based on the results published by Iranian media, 38 of the contested 68 seats were won by supporters of President Hassan Rouhani.

Read more at:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/05/iran-parliamentary-elections-runoff-pro-rouhani-wins.html#ixzz47bzCsltG>

Europe At Odds over Visa Freedom for Turks

Brussels is likely to open the door for visa-free travel to Europe for Turkish citizens, even if Ankara doesn't fulfill all the conditions imposed. Many in Europe are concerned that it could trigger a wave of new refugees from Turkey itself. By SPIEGEL Staff

Read more at:

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/europe-at-pains-over-visa-free-travel-for-turks-a-1090040.html>

US should ditch 'plan B' for Syria

The failure to date of Turkish-backed Syrian armed groups to retake the Syrian border town of al-Rai from the Islamic State (IS) should be a warning to US intelligence officials reportedly preparing a "plan B" for Syria, should the cessation of hostilities collapse.

According to The Wall Street Journal, the Central Intelligence Agency and its regional partners are drawing up plans to provide more advanced arms, possibly including anti-aircraft weapons, to Syrian opposition forces as a contingency plan. Old habits and bad ideas seem to die hard in some Washington policy circles. One might recall, for example, the failure of the ill-fated initial train and equip mission, which cost \$382 million to train 180 fighters, 95 of whom are reportedly still active. But instead of coming to a reasonable conclusion of "been there, done that, that didn't work," for many understandable reasons, the CIA is consulting with Turkey and Saudi Arabia on a scheme to ramp up the capabilities of Syrian proxies, which would of course be devastating for the Syrian people who have enjoyed a mild reprieve from the bloodbath of the past five years, as Mohammed al-Khatieb reported from Aleppo last week.

The divide between the United States and Turkey over the role of Syrian Kurdish groups has further complicated the campaign against Jabhat al-Nusra and IS in northern Syria, and is a major reason why a plan B would fail.

Fehim Tastekin writes that the Turkish-backed operation in al-Rai has turned into a "fiasco." The weeklong campaign has so far gone poorly, with IS putting up a fierce defense. The plan appears to have been hatched after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan appealed to US President Barack Obama to back off support for the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), the leading force in the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), and instead work through armed groups linked to the Turkish National Intelligence Service, "a composite force of Turkmens, Free Syrian Army factions and Salafists," according to Tastekin.

Turkey's Syria policies will only become more problematic as there is little or no hope for a "cessation of hostilities" with the Kurdistan Workers Party. Metin Gurcan writes, "The milder meteorological conditions will allow the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) to become more mobile. With improved logistics support, the PKK could integrate its urban units, which have been operating independently, and transform them into a regional force and escalate fighting. Security forces, which are aware of these realities, are frantically preparing. Security officials in Ankara expect multiple, simultaneous PKK operations on the ground or actions in the cities at the end of April. Ankara has reacted by increasing the number of special operations teams trained in urban warfare, appropriate vehicles and weaponry."



Tastekin concludes, "Turkey's tactical moves designed to keep the YPG away from the area are impeding a real and meaningful struggle against IS. The expectation is that if the Kurds and their Arab allies move against Menbic, Turkey will arrange for a repeat of the al-Rai offensive. If the Syrian army succeeds in the "Great Aleppo War," the northern front will be even more complicated, so much so that even Turkey won't be able to cope with it. Then, the 'with Kurds or without Kurds' debate will become irrelevant."

Despite the leaks of a plan B, UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura is not ready to write off progress since the US-Russian agreement in February, despite a breathless report in The Washington Post on April 14 about the "apparent collapse" of the cessation of hostilities. At the start of a new round of Syrian peace talks in Geneva, de Mistura told reporters April 13, "We need to make sure, at any cost, that the cessation of hostilities, in spirit and in substance, continues to give hope to the Syrian people, because that is what made all of them believe that, in fact, even if they have to wait for the intra-Syrian talks, their lives are at least improved."

Laura Rozen reports that US concerns about the challenges to the cessation of hostilities are in part the result of disputes over the targeting of Jabhat al-Nusra in and around Aleppo by the Syrian military and its backers, especially Iran and Russia, as some of the armed groups supported by the United States and its regional partners are in close proximity to Jabhat al-Nusra, which is al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria.

The relationship and proximity of other Syrian armed groups to Jabhat al-Nusra is a matter of some urgency. UN Security Council Resolution 2254 reiterates that the cessation of hostilities does not apply to Jabhat al-Nusra "and all other individuals, groups, undertakings, and entities associated with al-Qaeda or [IS]." This column has zero tolerance for those who run with al-Qaeda, even if for tactical reasons or a shared hatred of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Plan B, in our score, should be kept on the shelf for good, if not a candidate for the shredder. The thought of advanced arms, including anti-aircraft weapons, falling into the possession of sectarian Salafi groups such as Jaish al-Islam and Ahrar al-Sham, which are fellow travelers with Jabhat al-Nusra, and are backed by Saudi Arabia and Turkey, should be something to be avoided, not discussed.

The bottom line is that the US-Russia partnership on Syria is mostly working, and is Syria's best bet for an end to the war. Rather than a plan B, a better approach would be to build on what is working and establish a mechanism for both monitoring potential cessation violations, which is under discussion, and enhanced intelligence coordination among the United States, Russia and its regional partners in the International Syria Support Group about Jabhat al-Nusra and IS, especially in and around Aleppo, in anticipation of a likely offensive to retake the city, which would be a turning point in the war.

Kamal Sheikho reports from Kobani that "the latest military movements by the SDF and armed Syrian opposition factions in northern Syria aim to cut off the supply route to IS, which links the eastern and northern Aleppo countryside to Raqqa, and to bottleneck IS militants by cutting off the remaining border passages with Turkey. Analysts and experts in Syrian affairs believe it is likely for the coming days to witness heated and decisive battles between conflicting parties, changing the balance of power in favor of the forces fighting IS."

As we wrote in January, "If the Syrian army, backed by its Iranian and Russian allies, retakes Aleppo, the city's liberation will come by directly defeating terrorists and armed groups that are already deserting the battlefield. A government victory would be of a different order and have a different impact than the negotiated departures of besieged armed opposition forces in Homs and around Damascus. The people of Aleppo would experience a flat-out victory by the government and a defeat, and exodus, by the armed groups. ... A Syrian government victory in Aleppo could be the beginning of the end of the sectarian mindset that would have been alien to the city prior to 2011. There is no more appropriate city to begin Syria's healing. A Syrian government victory in Aleppo will make it harder to rationalize Western backing for jihadi groups that want to keep up the fight against long odds in the rest of the country. IS and al-Qaeda may prefer, over time, to begin to relocate to Libya and other countries where they can avoid the pounding from the US-led anti-IS coalition and Russian- and Iranian-backed Syrian forces. This may already be happening, and if so, it is to be cheered by those who seek a unified, secular and nonsectarian Syria, as outlined in the Vienna Communique, and as is Aleppo's tradition."

Why the Turkish government seized this Armenian church  
Indeed, the story of Sur evolves around historic churches and citadels of the town, which are on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Months of fighting with the Kurdistan Workers Party have left the region in ruins, and ambiguous government statements furthered the frustration of civilians who were obliged to leave their homes. One of the concerned groups is Armenian. About 110 years ago, the region's population distribution shows Sur was an Armenian majority town.

Read more: <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/04/turkey-pkk-clashes-armenian-church-collateral-damage.html#ixzz45XNRPvGA>

Eighty per cent of Yemen's population in need of aid - UN  
A year after Saudi Arabia began a bombing campaign against the Houthi rebels who ousted Yemen's president, the United Nations says more than 80% of the population now need some form of humanitarian assistance.

The UN says 2.4 million people have been internally displaced, and at least 3,200 civilians have been killed - most were victims of airstrikes by the Saudis and their allies.

Learn more at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35940409>

Syria's war

I found a very good overview of the war in Syria from the BBC and you might like to view this at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-17258397>

What is Abadi doing to protect Iraq's Christians?

Chaldean Catholic Patriarch of Babylon Louis Sako boycotted the National Conference on the Protection of Peaceful Coexistence, the Ban of Hatred and the Fight against Terrorism and Extremism held in the Iraqi parliament Feb. 7. Sako thought it was "useless to participate in conferences of slogans and mere talk that do not result in effective measures on the ground."

Sako, the head of the Chaldean Catholic Church, seemed angry at the government's failure to take steps to protect Iraq's Christians, 120,000 of whom were displaced and whose properties in Islamic State-controlled Mosul were confiscated in June 2014. The Christians' plight was also overlooked in Baghdad, where influential parties took over their residences.

Read more at: <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/02/iraq-christian-properties-confiscated.html#ixzz42ErUDfXq>

Islamic State group: The full story  
By Jim Muir, BBC News

Abu Anis only realised something unusual was happening when he heard the sound of explosions coming from the old city on the western bank of the Tigris as it runs through Mosul.

"I phoned some friends over there, and they said armed groups had taken over, some of them foreign, some Iraqis," the computer technician said. "The gunmen told them, 'We've come to get rid of the Iraqi army, and to help you.'"

The following day, the attackers crossed the river and took the other half of the city. The Iraqi army and police, who vastly outnumbered their assailants, broke and fled, officers first, many of the soldiers stripping off their uniforms as they joined a flood of panicked civilians.

Read this article at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35695648>

Stunning operation regenerates eye's lens

A pioneering procedure to regenerate the eye has successfully treated children with cataracts in China.

More than half of all cases of blindness are caused by cataracts - the clouding of the eye's lens.

An implanted lens is normally needed to restore sight, but the operation described in Nature activated stem cells in the eye to grow a new one.

Experts describe the breakthrough as one of the finest achievements in regenerative medicine.

The lens sits just behind the pupil and focuses light on to the retina.

About 20 million people are blind because of cataracts, which become more common with age - although some children are born with them.

Conventional treatment uses ultrasound to soften and break up the lens, which is then flushed out.

An artificial intraocular lens must then be implanted back into the eye, but this can result in complications, particularly in children.

The technique developed by scientists at the Sun Yat-sen University and the University of California, San Diego removes the cloudy cataract from inside the lens via a tiny incision.

Crucially it leaves the outer surface - called the lens capsule - intact.

This structure is lined with lens epithelial stem cells, which normally repair damage.

The scientists hoped that preserving them would regenerate the lens.

The team reported that tests on rabbits and monkeys were successful, so the approach was trialled in 12 children.

Within eight months the regenerated lens was back to the same size as normal.

Dr Kang Zhang, one of the researchers, told the BBC News website: "This is the first time an entire lens has been regenerated. The children were operated on in China and they continue to be doing very well with normal vision."

It also showed a dramatically lower complication rate "by almost every measure, supporting the superiority of the treatment".

However, he says larger trials are needed before it should become the standard treatment for patients.

The procedure was tried in children because their lens epithelial stem cells are more youthful and more able to regenerate than in older patients.

Yet the overwhelming majority of cataracts are in the elderly.

Dr Zhang says tests have already started on older pairs of eyes and says the early research "looks very encouraging".

Commenting on the findings, Prof Robin Ali from the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, said the work was "stunning".

He told the BBC News website: "This new approach offers greatly improved prospects for the treatment of paediatric cataracts as it results in regeneration of a normal lens that grows naturally."

He said getting similar results in adults "is likely to be more difficult to achieve" but could "have a major impact".

"It might be superior to the artificial lenses that are currently implanted, as the natural lenses should be able to accommodate looking at different distances more effectively," he added.

Dr Dusko Ilic, a reader in stem cell science at King's College London, said: "The study is one of the finest achievements in the field of regenerative medicine until now.

"It is science at its best."

Dr Zhang believes that targeting stem cells already sitting in the eye could have "great potential" for treating a wide range of diseases from macular degeneration to glaucoma.

A separate study by Osaka University in Japan and Cardiff University, used stem cells to mirror the development of the eye.

They were able to produce a range of specialised eye tissues including those that make the cornea, conjunctiva, lens and retina.

The findings, also published in Nature, showed the lab-grown tissues could restore sight to rabbits with corneal blindness.

One of the researchers, Prof Andrew Quantock, said: "Our work not only holds potential for developing cells for treatment of other areas of the eye, but could set the stage for future human clinical trials of anterior eye transplantation to restore visual function."

We need to stop the diabetes epidemic

Rates of diabetes are a third higher than they were in 1980 and the condition is estimated to affect around 4 million people in Britain.

You can read this article at:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/wellbeing/diet/we-need-to-stop-the-diabetes-epidemic---before-we-eat-ourselves/>

Angry Young Men

By Karin Kneissl

In October 2013 the Scottish Review published an article by James Wilkie on the exploding problem of international migration, after a special United Nations survey had revealed that at that date some 232 million people (3.2% of the global population) were on the move outside their own native countries. The recent flood of immigrants into Europe has presented an opportunity to quantify and analyse that movement to a certain extent.

Far from being a tear-jerking tale of women and children fleeing war and oppression (which certainly applies in a proportion of cases that come under the international rules of asylum), the statistical fact is that the greater part of this mass movement of population consists of young men, most of whom are in no way personally endangered in their homelands and are simply seeking a better life in Europe, where they believe the streets are paved with gold.

This has profound implications for the receiving states, where it is causing enormous logistical and budgetary difficulties as well as creating chaos with social, employment, educational, health, law and order and other government policies. This article analyses the background and motivation of the '80%'.

Statistical evaluation of the recent flood of asylum seekers into Europe has now confirmed the impression gained from previous observations: that 80% of them are young men between the ages of 17 and 30 who are travelling singly. This fact has given rise to the oft-repeated and fully justified questions of why this is the case, and what consequences it could have for the countries of reception.

Young men are less averse to risk, they tend to ignore dangers, and above all they are on the search for status. To this end they are prepared to march through deserts on foot for the chance of a fresh start. Something similar happened when the first Europeans started to open up America. There was a growing surplus of men without prospects in Europe, who in 1848, the Year of Revolutions across the continent, tried to overturn the autocratic political order. The movement failed, and those revolutionaries who were not executed emigrated, mostly to the Americas. The history of the wild west

with all its violence is also the history of a long-lasting surplus male population.

The search for a New World has for generations sent millions wandering, and in our own age 'the pressure is as strong as ever in a number of countries of origin', as the latest OECD survey puts it. For example, some 44% of Nigerians over the age of 15 want to leave their homeland permanently. In Albania the figure is 39%, in Senegal 37 and in Syria 31%. In almost every country surveyed at least one European state was named among the first three preferred destinations.

These people are dreaming of bettering themselves at a higher level of social standing and material prosperity. Fifteen years ago the United Nations High Commission for Refugees conducted a video campaign to convince Africans that emigration more often than not ends in misery rather than success. But in turbulent times like the present we are apparently confronted with the constant factor of social inequality.

The much-quoted, and increasing, division between north and south, aggravated in part by an unrealistic system of development cooperation, appears almost annually on the agenda of the world economic forum in Davos as one of the most fundamental threats to world peace. We know where the fault-lines lie: along the Mediterranean, in Eastern Europe, and also between the centres and suburbs of so many major cities. There are worlds of a difference between the socially up-market promenades of the centres and the no-go areas of the outskirts, even if they are often joined by the most high-tech underground rail networks.

Now a huge number of young men are swarming northwards, full of energy and an ambition for success, whether as a pizza cook, a footballer, or a gang boss.

The implied invitation by German federal chancellor Angela Merkel in September, to the effect that Germany's capacity for immigrants 'still had some air on top', was disseminated by WhatsApp right into the slums of Karachi – with the result that young Pakistanis were soon on the bus on the road to points west.

Whether these people are fleeing armed hostilities or simply the lack of any perspective in their lives, many of them dream of achieving a status they will never enjoy at home. If they have no work they will never have their own homes and thus the prospect of marriage. In most traditional societies a man can have a woman partner and a sex-life only through legalised marriage – or through rape, as the many reported cases and the innumerable unpublicised ones of gang rape indicate.

Medical research studies have repeatedly confirmed the internal interaction between male testosterone and social status. Whether the testosterone be regarded as the 'hormone for aggression and domination' or more positively as the 'hormone for care and responsibility', it is always a matter of status. And in the end it is the women who decide the issue by going for men of status and potential success in life, in order to ensure that their offspring will be cared for.

These ancient role models, developed through evolution, still possess their validity in an age of globalisation. The family, with its broad scale of accepted forms, is even increasing in importance, because in difficult and confused times family relationships offer a social security network that the state cannot guarantee. In a world in which millions are forced to survive flight and migration, family relationships that were often prophesied to be on the way out are a considerable source of help. And so, many young men go out into the world in advance, and bring their families along later.

In the spring of 2015 I was caring for three Syrians in their 30s, one of them with a 10-year-old son, who had come to Austria over the Balkan route in February. On their arrival they had known absolutely nothing about Austria, but they were all convinced that they would very shortly be able to acquire houses and cars there. They asked me to have a look out for suitable accommodation. And then they would bring the rest of their families after them.

We carried on an argument in Arabic language, because foreign languages are not normally taught in the Syrian school system. I tried in vain to bring them down to a sense of reality. I asked them why they had not gone to their relatives in Kuwait, where family ties and a common language would offer them far more opportunities in a country that was now going through boom times. They insisted, however, on staying in Austria, where they had already experienced the advanced facilities of the

welfare state as well as the ready Austrian assistance.

I kept my distance, especially after the boy's father declared that he would not allow his son to play with any other children except Muslims. I didn't even know the religion of the children that I invited into the house, since it didn't interest me. This again was something that the new arrivals couldn't understand. They were so different from the Syrians I had got to know during my days as a student in Damascus in 1988. The secular ones are now in the minority; nowadays religion is the core and being of all thinking and acting.

When I first lived in Syria the country had a population of around nine million people. Nowadays there are 22 millions, and the living conditions combined with political repression by the authoritarian police state led to the rebellions in March 2011. In 2002 considerable interest was aroused by the United Nations Development Programme's report on human development, the first one it had carried out in Arab countries.

Inter alia, it contained a warning by demographers on the likelihood of a rebellion by unemployed youth, because the population of the Arab states had doubled since 1985. The result is that the average age in Jordan is now 18 years, and in most of the others ranges from 20 to 25. At the moment Saudi Arabia has the world's highest birth rate, and is confronted with massive youth unemployment. The oil riches are presently keeping a lid on the anger of a frustrated youth who, not least due to the Saudi educational system, are becoming ever more receptive to the siren song of the Islamic State (IS).

The birthrate curve in the states of North Africa and the Middle East is now showing a slight tendency downwards, but the challenge remains of finding something for their existing younger citizens to do. The World Bank has come up with a figure of 100 million new jobs that will have to be created over the next 15 to 20 years.

In Egypt alone half a million places have to be found every year to provide training for the younger generation. Egyptian president Abdel Fatah al-Sisi, often criticised by Western moralists, is doing at least one thing right: he is having one major building project after the other started, in order to provide manual employment for young men. With the wages they take home they can maybe even afford to marry.

One major dilemma for hundreds of thousands of men in those countries is that they do not have the resources to marry, while the rigid social morals forbid them to have a girlfriend or otherwise relieve their sexual drives. It would be unscientific, and even ridiculous, to reduce all that is happening there – armed conflict, rebellion and emigration – to terms of a hormonal explosion, because there are certainly other social and economic factors involved. But this fundamental human dimension must be taken into account amongst others in the analysis of recent happenings. Many contemporaries have even suggested that the recent massive immigration to Europe will provide a fresh supply of personnel for the care of the elderly. Those who make such suggestions clearly know nothing of human nature.

According to the prophet Kohelet there is nothing new under the sun. Leaving actual revolutions aside, there is plenty of evidence from earlier periods of the tendency of young males to violence, whether due to the circumstances of the time, or simply boredom.

Think of the Crusades. The church saw that it was more productive to make use of the energy of the young men who roamed Europe assaulting each other in gang wars by diverting their aggression onto Levantine 'unbelievers' in the name of the Cross.

And so the history unfolds. The Middle East is alarmingly near to us. One can wander there on foot from Europe, as pilgrims have done since time immemorial. And one can also flee from there on foot when war and religious fanatics make life there intolerable. Angry young men, singly or in the mass, have always made history, and there is no reason to believe that the present mass influx into Europe will be any different.

Dr Karin Kneissl was a diplomat with the Austrian foreign ministry, and now lectures in universities in Austria and Lebanon.

## Everything Is Crumbling

An influential psychological theory, borne out in hundreds of experiments, may have just been debunked. How can so many scientists have been so wrong?

Nearly 20 years ago, psychologists Roy Baumeister and Dianne Tice, a married couple at Case Western Reserve University, devised a foundational experiment on self-control. "Chocolate chip cookies were baked in the room in a small oven," they wrote in a paper that has been cited more than 3,000 times. "As a result, the laboratory was filled with the delicious aroma of fresh chocolate and baking."

Read this article at: <http://tinyurl.com/hqzv4pk>

## The immortalist: Uploading the mind to a computer

While many tech moguls dream of changing the way we live with new smart devices or social media apps, one Russian internet millionaire is trying to change nothing less than our destiny, by making it possible to upload a human brain to a computer, reports Tristan Quinn.

"Within the next 30 years," promises Dmitry Itskov, "I am going to make sure that we can all live forever."

It sounds preposterous, but there is no doubting the seriousness of this softly spoken 35-year-old, who says he left the business world to devote himself to something more useful to humanity. "I'm 100% confident it will happen. Otherwise I wouldn't have started it," he says.

It is a breathtaking ambition, but could it actually be done? Itskov doesn't have too much time to find out.

"If there is no immortality technology, I'll be dead in the next 35 years," he laments. Death is inevitable - currently at least - because as we get older the cells that make up our bodies lose their ability to repair themselves, making us vulnerable to cardiovascular disease and other age-related conditions that kill about two-thirds of us.

Read more about this at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35786771>

## How much of a savings buffer do people need?

The UK government is promising to help low-earners protect against hard times by topping up savings. But what constitutes a sensible "buffer" these days?

Nasty things happen in life. You could lose your job, divorce or be stung for a rent hike or an expensive building repair. You could just have to pay an unusually high gas bill or replace a stolen laptop. Your car could break down, or you could face transport costs for a faraway family funeral.

If there's nothing, or next to nothing in the bank, these events are hard to cope with - as you have to go on eating and buying clothes.

So how much money should people have squirreled away for a situation like those above?

Anti-debt charity Step Change says that, if every household in the UK had £1,000 saved, it would reduce the number falling into problem debt by half a million.

Martin Lewis, founder of MoneySavingExpert.com, recommends setting up an emergency fund to the value of "at least six months' worth of bills", although three months' worth "wouldn't be too bad". But he concedes this is "going to be hard", particularly for those on low incomes.

The latest official figure, for December last year, put the average UK weekly wage at £496. Many, many people earn much less, of course, but this sum would give a typical person weekly take-home pay of just under £400.

The US-based financial site Money Under 30 differentiates between a "buffer" for cashflow problems and an emergency fund for major events. It recommends keeping between one week's and two

weeks' take-home pay as the buffer. Translated to the UK, this would mean saving between roughly £400 and £800.

An emergency fund should allow for between six and nine months of expense, it adds. If these were to come to £1,000 a month, that's between £6,000 and £9,000.

But such a level of savings is in the realm of fantasy for many Britons.

A survey by the Money Advice Service has found that four in 10 adults in the UK do not have £500 or more in savings. Another by ING bank suggests 28% of UK adults have nothing at all in the bank.

Expenses, rather than income levels, are what people should focus on when working out how much they need to save, says Goodwin. "If you are earning £2,000 a month and you've got £1,000 going out in expenses and you might be out of work for three months, then you'll need £3,000 put aside. Who knows, you might be out of work for six or nine months."

People should clear expensive debts before saving anything. Lewis warns against putting money into savings accounts - with interest rates at around 1% - if this involves having to keep debt on credit cards, where rates above 20% are common, arguing it would be "perverse" to do so.

World leaders express shock over Brussels attacks

World leaders expressed shock and denunciations after the attacks in Brussels on Tuesday 22nd March that killed more than 30 people and wounded about 200 others.

Monica Lewinsky: The shame sticks to you like tar

Nearly 20 years ago, Monica Lewinsky found herself at the heart of a political storm. Now she's turned that dark time into a force for good'

She's tired and dressed in black. She just flew in from India and hasn't had breakfast yet. We'll talk for two hours, after which there's only time for a quick teacake before she hurries to the airport to give a talk in Phoenix, Arizona, and spend the weekend with her father.

Read this article at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/apr/16/monica-lewinsky-shame-sticks-like-tar-jon-ronson>

The war on elephants

This is a story about how the very existence of Africa's elephants is threatened by poachers, traffickers and Asia's appetite for ivory. "The number of people we have is just not enough to support and protect all these elephants," says the man helping lead the rangers hoping to fight off the poachers.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/1d1-6d40b788-af2f-4646-8177-c8db7ce6a881>

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## Canadian Update

Canada's energy superpower status threatened

Canada's status as an "energy superpower" is under threat because the global dominance of fossil fuels could wane faster than previously believed, according to a draft report from a federal government think-tank obtained by CBC News.

"It is increasingly plausible to foresee a future in which cheap renewable electricity becomes the world's primary power source and fossil fuels are relegated to a minority status," reads the conclusion of the 32-page document, produced by Policy Horizons Canada.

The little-known government organization provides medium-term policy advice to the federal bureaucracy, specializing in forecasts that peer a decade or two into the future.



The document was obtained by CBC News under an access to information request and shared with two experts — one in Alberta, one in British Columbia — who study the energy industry.

Both experts described its forecasts for global energy markets as more or less in line with what a growing number of analysts believe.

Read more at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/canada-super-power-oil-decline-renewables-policy-horizons-1.3601400>

#### Governor General's Innovation Awards

The Innovation Awards recognize and celebrate outstanding Canadian individuals, teams and organizations— trailblazers and creators who contribute to our country's success, who help shape our future and who inspire the next generation.

The winners for 2016 are...

#### Christi Belcourt, Espanola, Ontario

Christi Belcourt is a Métis visual artist with a deep respect for the traditions and knowledge of her people. The majority of her art explores and celebrates the beauty of the natural world. Her work has been commissioned by the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Centre for Traditional Knowledge / Museum of Nature, and the Indian and Inuit Art Collection, and is found in the permanent collections of the Thunder Bay Art Gallery and the First People's Hall of the Canadian Museum of History. Ms. Belcourt is a past recipient of awards from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Chalmers Family Fund and the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Christi Belcourt uses cutting-edge applied arts and design and new technologies in an effort to raise awareness and to create momentum toward innovative societal change while respecting traditional protocols and ancestral cultural traditions. Her initiatives relate to a wide range of social issues and she champions forward-looking collaborations that are models of respectful partnerships and principled adaptation of indigenous cultural influence.

#### Robert Burrell, Edmonton, Alberta

Biography | Dr. Robert E. Burrell is currently a Canada Research Chair in Nanostructured Biomaterials, the Sorensen Chair in the Commercialization of Biomedical Technology, and a professor and chair of biomedical engineering in the faculties of engineering and medicine & dentistry at the University of Alberta. He is one of the world's leading experts on the use of advanced metallic films for therapeutic applications. He is a prolific inventor with over 300 patents and patent applications worldwide, including Acticoat dressings, the world's first commercial therapeutic application of nanotechnology. He has received many awards recognizing his work on nanostructured materials in medicine.

Robert Burrell's Acticoat, the world's first therapeutic medical application of nanotechnology, is the first burn dressing to simultaneously kill bacteria and decrease inflammation. This revolutionized approach to wound care increases healing rates, reduces the need for skin grafts and cuts down on long-term scar management issues. With his innovation, Dr. Burrell has saved thousands of lives and limbs around the world.

#### Jeff Dahn, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Biography | A fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Dr. Jeff Dahn is Canada's most distinguished scientist in the field of advanced batteries. He has authored over 610 refereed journal papers and has had patents issued or filed for 65 inventions. Mr. Dahn worked at the National Research Council of Canada (1982-85) and at Moli Energy Limited (1985-90) before joining the Physics Department at Simon Fraser University in 1990. He was named the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council/3M Canada Industrial Research Chair at Dalhousie University in 1996, where he subsequently became a Canada Research Chair in 2003. In 2016, he will hold the NSERC/Tesla Canada Industrial Research Chair where he will focus on low-cost, long-lifetime Li-ion batteries.

Jeff Dahn and his dedicated team of researchers have pioneered the method of high-precision coulometry to rank the life span of Li-ion cells in a few weeks of testing. Not only has this

development allowed researchers worldwide to speed up the R&D process and create a better and longer-lasting Li-ion cell, but it will also contribute to the switch of our energy sources from fossil fuels to renewable resources.

Breanne Everett, Calgary, Alberta

Biography | Dr. J. Breanne Everett is the CEO and co-founder of Orpyx, as well as a medical doctor and resident in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the University of Calgary. She was named one of Avenue Magazine's Top 40 Under 40 in 2012, and the University of Calgary's Graduate of the Last Decade in 2014. She is a Loran National Scholar, who serves as an active member of the Loran Alumni Community, and is a member of the scientific review board of the Pedorthic Research Association of Canada.

Breanne Everett co-founded Orpyx Medical Technologies to develop her idea for shoe insoles that prompts patients with diabetic foot conditions to move their feet to improve blood flow. This unique, wearable technology has improved users' quality of life and reduced health care costs by decreasing the risks of sores, infection and amputation caused by diabetes-related nerve damage and poor circulation.

Kinova, Boisbriand, Quebec

Biography | Charles Deguire is the CEO and co-founder of Kinova, a company he launched while earning his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at Montréal's École de technologie supérieure. He is the visionary who propelled Kinova to the height of the modern robotics revolution. Thanks to his efforts, the JACO robotic arm is greatly improving the quality of life of individuals with reduced mobility in a way that no other technology has to date. Today, Mr. Deguire is steering Kinova into service robotics to allow industry leaders to explore how robotic arm technology can be applied in a wide range of fields.

Kinova designs and manufactures simple, safe and sexy robotics platforms and components for a broad range of applications. Co-founded by Charles Deguire, the company helps people push beyond their physical limitations and offers a more efficient and safer work environment in industrial settings. Kinova's sleek, energy-efficient robotic arms are lightweight, quiet, unobtrusive and weather-resistant. Since its launch in 2010, the JACO arm has offered more autonomy, control and range of motion—as well as improved mental well-being—to Canadians with upper-body mobility restrictions.

Mark Torchia and Richard Tyc, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Biography | As the executive director of the Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning at the University of Manitoba, Dr. Mark G. Torchia works with his colleagues to support partnership, research and professional development. He thrives on collaborating for positive, lasting change—opportunities he has had in health care, education and business. Richard Tyc, P. Eng., is the vice-president of technology and advanced development at Monteris Medical Inc. A graduate of the University of Manitoba engineering program and the recipient of numerous awards and patents, he started his career in the life sciences sector with developments in prosthetics, orthopedics and pharmacy automation. Mr. Tyc teamed up with Dr. Torchia more than 15 years ago to help bring NeuroBlate technology to reality and clinical success.

Mark Torchia and Richard Tyc are the creators of the NeuroBlate System, a medical device that combines a novel laser probe system with real-time image guidance. Using magnetic resonance imaging and sophisticated software, the tool allows neurosurgeons in Canada and abroad to treat brain tumours and other intracranial targets in a minimally invasive way that also reduces post-operative care and health costs.

Can Canada teach the rest of us to be nicer?

By Eric Weiner



Every August my family embarks on that great American ritual: the road trip. And we always head north. Canada may not be the most exotic of destinations, but sometimes, exotic is overrated. Canada tempts us with familiarity, blissfully cool weather and, most of all, a deep reservoir of niceness.

We experience Canadian nice as soon as we reach customs. The US border guards are gruff and all business. The Canadians, by contrast, are unfailingly polite, even as they grill us about the number of wine bottles we're bringing into the country. One year, we had failed to notice that our 9-year-old daughter's passport had expired. They, nicely, let us enter anyway. The niceness continues for our entire trip, as we encounter nice waiters, nice hotel clerks, nice strangers.

Canadian niceness is pure, and untainted by the passive-aggressive undertones found in American niceness (have a good day, or else!). It's also abundant. Canada is to niceness as Saudi Arabia is to oil. It's awash in the stuff, and it's about time, I say, the rest of the world imported some. (France, Russia and the UK topped one recent list of rude countries as perceived by travellers.) Researchers have yet to analyse Canadian niceness empirically, but studies have found that Canadians, perhaps in an effort not to offend, use an overabundance of "hedge words", such as "could be" and "not bad". Then there is the most coveted of Canadian words: "sorry". Canadians will apologize for anything and to anything.

"I've apologized to a tree that I walked into," confessed Michael Valpy, a journalist and author, noting that many of his fellow citizens have done the same.

Traffic in Toronto and Montreal may be awful, but "you almost never hear a horn, even in the most frustrating traffic jams", said Jeffrey Dvorkin, a Canadian journalism professor at the University of Toronto. Horn-honking is regarded as unnecessarily aggressive. And murder rates in Canada are low, he said, partly because "it's quite rude to murder someone".

The Canadian press is rife with examples of niceness in action. For instance, the National Post reported that in Edmonton, a law student, Derek Murray, left his headlights on all day. When he returned to his car, he found the battery drained and a note on his windshield. "I noticed you left your lights on," it read. "The battery will probably not have enough charge to start your vehicle. I left a blue extension cord on the fence and ... a battery charger beside the fence in the cardboard box." The note went on to explain exactly how to jump-start the vehicle. "Good luck," it added. In Ontario, a thief returned the goods he or she stole with \$50 attached to a letter of apology. "I can't put it into words how sorry I am," the thief explained. "Please find it in your hearts to forgive the stranger who harmed you."

Canadians aren't only polite; they're incredibly humble too, and reluctant to take credit for even plainly heroic acts. When a gunman attacked the Canadian parliament building in October 2014, Kevin Vickers, Canada's sergeant-at-arms, responded quickly and calmly by shooting the assailant with the handgun he keeps in his office. And while Vickers was glorified in the Canadian media, it was his humility, not his marksmanship or bravado, that was celebrated. (Canadians take great pride in their humility, an oxymoron that bothers no one.)

What explains this blizzard of humility and politeness? Taras Grescoe, a Montreal-based writer, believes Canadian niceness is born of necessity. "We're a small group of people, spread across the second-largest national territory in the world," he said. "We've always known that, in order to survive – or just stay sane – we had to watch out for one another. The old lady down the street, the teenager at the bus stop who forgot to bring a scarf when it's 5 below. Hence our general willingness to proffer

assistance rather than aggression."

Another explanation for Canadian niceness stems from the "fragment theory". First posited by the US scholar Louis Hartz, the theory states that colonial societies such as the United States and Canada began as "fragments" of the European nations they were escaping from. These new nations remain, in effect, frozen in time. Thus, Canada retains a conservative, Tory streak – that is, with a more deferential, "nicer" nature than the one embraced by the feisty US founding fathers.

Not everyone believes this is a good thing. Valpy sees Canadian niceness as a defence mechanism, one that "stems from inferiority and an awkward awareness that our clothes don't fit properly and we always have bad haircuts and really don't do anything great."

Also, in the land of nice, problems sometimes fester because everyone is too nice to say anything. Manjushree Thapa, a writer who recently moved to Canada from Nepal, recalls sitting in a movie theatre when the screen grew dimmer and dimmer as the projection bulb slowly burned out. The screen was almost black but no one spoke up. Exasperated, she finally prodded her Canadian partner to alert the management, which he did, reluctantly. "Niceness can silence people here," she said.

Overall, though, she'll take nice any day. And so will I. Life is hard enough, with plenty of jagged edges and pointy bits. Why not coat it with a glaze of politeness and humility? Politeness, at its best, is a way of honouring others, especially strangers. Politeness is the lubricant that makes social interactions run smoothly and reduces the risk of conflagrations. The world, I think, would be a better place if we were all a bit more Canadian.

Fortunately, Canadian niceness is contagious. On my annual northern migration, I find myself slowing down, saying "thank you" and "please" more often than I usually do. Maybe I go too far and cross the line from polite to unctuous. If I do, I can only say, in true Canadian fashion, I'm sorry.

Presentation of a Meritorious Service Decoration (Military Division)

OTTAWA—His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, announces the presentation of a Meritorious Service Cross (Military Division) to United States Navy Admiral William E. Gortney. On behalf of the Governor General, General Jonathan Vance, Chief of the Defence Staff, presented the insignia during a ceremony at the Peterson Air Force Base, in Colorado Springs, on May 13, 2016.

Admiral William E. Gortney, M.S.C. (United States Navy)  
Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York, U.S.A.  
Meritorious Service Cross (Military Division)

As commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command from 2014 to 2016, Admiral Gortney demonstrated devotion to duty and selfless service to both Canada and the United States, contributing immeasurably to a strong, integrated, bi-national defence of North America. He refined the defensive plans for North America by eliminating gaps and seams, re-aligning command and control structures, and advocating for a combined continental defence, which ultimately strengthened North American defence and security.

The Meritorious Service Cross (Military Division) recognizes a military deed or activity that has been performed in an outstandingly professional manner, according to a rare high standard that brings considerable benefit or great honour to the Canadian Armed Forces.

Order of Canada

Established in 1967 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Order of Canada is the cornerstone of the Canadian Honours System, and recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. The Order recognizes people in all sectors of Canadian society. Their contributions are varied, yet they have all enriched the lives of others and made a difference to this country.

Awards in May 2016 include...

## COMPANIONS OF THE ORDER OF CANADA

Arthur B. McDonald, C.C.  
Kingston, Ontario

Thanks to Arthur McDonald, we have solved one of the mysteries of our solar system. In what is now a Nobel Prize-winning breakthrough accomplished two kilometres underground at the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, he steered a major experiment that conclusively demonstrated that a class of solar particles undergoes transformation on its way to Earth. This finding has shed light on the very nature of matter in our universe, and spawned a range of new particle physics research. Also a professor emeritus at Queen's University, he has been a prominent ambassador of Canadian science through his service on advisory committees and as a keynote speaker at conferences the world over.

This is a promotion within the Order.

Janet Rossant, C.C.  
Toronto, Ontario

Janet Rossant has challenged existing paradigms and established entirely new concepts in developmental biology. As a professor at the University of Toronto, she has characterized genes that are critical to the earliest stages of embryonic development and discovered control systems that enable cell differentiation. Her globally renowned research is foundational to the development of new treatments for a range of conditions including cancer and degenerative diseases. Also a gifted administrator, she served for a decade as the chief of research at the Hospital for Sick Children and has presided over leading international societies in her field.

## OFFICERS OF THE ORDER OF CANADA

Daniel J. Drucker, O.C.  
Toronto, Ontario

Daniel Drucker has expanded the treatment landscape for people living with diabetes. A Canada Research Chair and professor at the University of Toronto, he has identified the role of specific intestinal hormones in regulating glucose and insulin levels, and demonstrated how these hormones can be used to improve patient care. His research has enabled the development of three medicinal therapies now used by millions of people around the world for the treatment of diabetes and intestinal disorders.

Paul D. N. Hebert, O.C.  
Puslinch, Ontario

Paul Hebert's groundbreaking research on DNA barcoding has provided an unparalleled platform for species discovery and identification. A professor of integrative biology and Canada Research Chair in Molecular Biodiversity at the University of Guelph, he has improved the security of our food supply by controlling invasive species and protecting the environment. He also leads the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario and the International Barcode of Life Consortium, a worldwide project aimed at cataloguing all life forms in a publicly accessible database.

Stephen Nash, O.C., O.B.C.  
Victoria, British Columbia and Manhattan Beach, California, United States of America

Steve Nash is one of Canada's best-known athletes and sports ambassadors. His outstanding play on the basketball court is matched only by his passion for helping others. Named the NBA's most valuable player two years in a row, as well as Canadian athlete of the year several times, he has also been recognized for his unstinting support of various charitable causes. He established the Steve Nash Foundation to assist underserved children in Canada, the United States and Paraguay. His exceptional commitment to the game of basketball and to the welfare of children has made him an inspirational leader and role model for youth.

Stephen J. Toope, O.C.

Toronto, Ontario

Legal scholar Stephen Toope is a thoughtful voice in higher education and international law. As dean of law at McGill University and as president of the University of British Columbia, he led curriculum renewal in legal education and advanced post-secondary research and innovation. Founding CEO of the Trudeau Foundation, he is also a leading authority in international human rights, and is sought after for his expertise and advice by social justice organizations and governments in Canada and around the world.

Other award recipients can be found at:

<http://www.gg.ca/document.aspx?id=16410&lan=eng>

Justin Trudeau apologizes for failing to live up to a higher standard

Debate follows melee in the House on Wednesday during which an MP was elbowed in what PM said was an accident.



A repentant Prime Minister Justin Trudeau apologized Thursday morning for the third time in two days for a physical encounter with two opposition MPs that resulted in a melee on the floor of the House of Commons the day before.

Read more at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/justin-trudeau-third-apology-1.3589007>

Merchant mariners honoured for role in World War II

The 60th anniversary of the first naval convoy to leave Halifax during World War II.

Merchant seamen played a crucial role in the voyages. On Friday, a cruise aboard HMCS Sackville reminded veterans of their unique contribution to the war. It was a symbolic gesture a lot of merchant mariners say they don't often receive.

Louis Maillette was one of the former seamen who was on the cruise. 60 years ago, he was a merchant mariner aboard a ship in a convoy of supply and destroyer ships that left Halifax for Europe.

He says in 1942 or '43, you "could almost jump from one ship to the other, they were that close together" in Halifax Harbour and the Bedford Basin.

Matthew Zwicker, another veteran, says ceremonies are nice but he's still waiting for the federal government to treat merchant navy veterans the same way it does other vets, particularly when it comes to pensions.

Zwicker says "nobody in a uniform has ever come to me and said, 'thank you for bringing my food and my ammunition.'"

Larn more at: <http://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=860133>

Canadian judge clears Mike Duffy of 31 corruption charges

A judge has cleared Canadian Senator Mike Duffy of all 31 charges in a corruption case.

Mike Duffy's criminal defence attorney says that his vindicated client is battling serious health issues that raise concern about his well-being.

"I am worried about him. He has gone through the last part of this dealing with some confidential serious medical matters. He has kept a brave face through it all, but I don't think he and Heather [Duffy] fully understand the scope of what ended yesterday and how it ended,"

Read more at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/mike-duffy-donald-bayne-health-1.3548810>

Message from the Governor General of Canada on the Occasion of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's 90th Birthday

OTTAWA—Few individuals have earned as much of our nation's respect and admiration as Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Today, on her 90th birthday, Sharon and I would like to convey our best wishes to The Queen on behalf of all Canadians.

For 90 years, Canadians have been inspired by the life and accomplishments of the Queen. For decades we have been witness to her compassion and her strong sense of loyalty, duty and service. She has been our Queen for longer than most of us can remember. And whenever she comes to Canada, we welcome her with open arms.

Fort McMurray fire grows to 580,000 hectares

The fire began on 3 May and destroyed more than 2,400 homes and buildings. It shut off nearly a quarter of Canada's oil production as it approached Alberta's oil sands.

The fire is still burning and covers about 580,000 hectares (5,800 sq km), including part of the neighbouring province of Saskatchewan, but is not expected to grow significantly.



The BBC has a good collection of pictures and videos  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-36210378>

At an update Wednesday morning, Fire Chief Darby Allen spoke of the fire almost as if it were a living thing. He said by 6 a.m. MT all structure fires in the city had been extinguished, but crews continued to battle the monster fire on several fronts.

He said neighbourhoods that escaped the flames Tuesday may still be in grave danger.

"This fire will look for them," he said, "and it will find them, and it will try to take them."

Read more at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/alberta-wildfire-science-background-1.3565932>

Editors Note: At time of writing BC is fighting 85 fires. I also found a disturbing YouTube video...

What Caused The Fort McMurray Fire?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jsob73m1Oug>

Message from Her Majesty The Queen on the Wildfires in Fort McMurray  
OTTAWA—The Governor General of Canada wishes to share a message addressed to all Canadians from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on the wildfires in Fort McMurray, Alberta.

"Prince Philip and I were shocked and saddened by the news of the wildfires that are causing such devastation to Fort McMurray. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been affected, and we send our heartfelt thanks to the firefighters and the other emergency workers."

Elizabeth R.

Fort McMurray recovery: lessons from the Slave Lake rebuild  
Be patient. It is going to take a long time to rebuild and you want to do it right.

Read this article at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/fort-mcmurray-recovery-lessons-from-the-slave-lake-rebuild-1.3582497>

Canadian Space Agency contractor puts rovers to work on Earth  
These space-age tools are being used for firefighting and defence, among other applications

Read more at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/lunar-rovers-argo-j5-1.3581375>

Canada promises 'real plan' to address aboriginal suicide crisis  
By Michelle Conlin

ATTAWAPISKAT, Ontario (Reuters) - A Canadian Cabinet minister visited remote Attawapiskat, Ontario, on Monday and said the government was finalizing a comprehensive plan to help the aboriginal community plagued by suicide attempts and harsh living conditions.

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett met for about two hours with Chief Bruce Shisheesh in the northern community of 2,000 people.

"We had a good, frank discussion," Bennett told reporters. "It's no longer going to be Band-aids and piecemeal. It's going to be a real plan."

Saying announcements were imminent, Bennett said: "We're almost there."

Five children tried to take their own lives on Friday night in Attawapiskat, following 11 suicide attempts the previous weekend.



Attawapiskat, 600 miles (965 km) north of Ottawa on James Bay, is only accessible by plane or winter ice road.

Bennett said the suicide rate was many times higher for aboriginals than for other Canadians because of their loss of culture, stemming partly from past governments forcing aboriginals to leave their communities and attend residential schools.

The minister said she would appoint a youth delegation from the community to serve as her advisers and travel to Ottawa. A new recreation center, programs for children and plans to reclaim the healing center - which has been turned into housing since many residents are homeless - are also in the works.

[Editors Note: To resolve these types of issues I believe we need total transparency by both the Local Government and Federal authorities so we can do a much better job of solving these issues. I have personally worked at trying to understand the issues in our First Nations but despite trying to contact many of them not one has supplied any meaningful information. This has left me to work with antiquarian content but of course we really need more up to date information. See <http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/index.htm>]

Former Toronto Mayor Rob Ford dies

Former Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has died at the age of 46 after battling cancer, his family has said.

Mr Ford, who battled drug and alcohol addiction, was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer in 2014.

He gained international notoriety after admitting smoking crack cocaine in 2013, but he was loved by supporters.

"A dedicated man of the people, Councillor Ford spent his life serving the citizens of Toronto," his family said in a statement.

Why Rob Ford was a typical Canadian

From the BBC News Magazine

Canadian journalist Jordan Michael Smith reflects on the outrageous life of Rob Ford, the former mayor of Toronto. Was an overweight, crack-smoking loudmouth really so out of character compared to his fellow Canadians?

It is fair to say that Rob Ford brought more attention to Toronto at one time than the city has ever received in its history.

The former mayor, who died on Tuesday, made the Canadian city internationally notorious in May 2013 when a gossip website described a video showing him smoking crack cocaine.

The revelation was soon followed by an astonishing series of events: Ford's admission of crack-smoking, reports that the house where Ford was videotaped was well known for attracting drugs and violence, another video showing him drunk and using racial slurs, and yet another video showing him again smoking crack.

Part of what made Ford so headline-grabbing was, of course, the simple fact that he was a mayor engaging in felonious behaviour.

That behaviour was tied into his entire persona, which seemed made for sensationalistic coverage - boisterous, boorish, and boozy.

But another reason Ford became globally infamous was that he ran so contrary to national stereotypes.

"Toronto's crack-smoking, hard-drinking mayor seems so, well, un-Canadian," as the Irish Times put it.

"This is Canada we're talking about, supposedly an endless land of clean water, maple trees, Mounties and French secessionists," Time magazine summarised.

But Canadians defy popular notions of all kinds.

They are among the heaviest drinkers of alcohol and smokers of marijuana in the world; they rank with the most obese and dependent on antidepressants, and they kill nearly half a million seals every year for fur.

In light of this evidence, Rob Ford isn't so un-Canadian.

Perhaps that's why many Torontonians simply didn't care about his conduct.

It wasn't that shocking to them. And it was hardly unknown.

By the time he was first elected mayor, after all, in October 2010, he had already faced charges for assaulting his wife; he had become drunk and yelled obscenities at an ice hockey game; been forced to leave an event for the Canadian armed forces because he was inebriated, and he had admitted to failing a breathalyser test - all while he was a City Council member.

The crack-smoking was a new degree of criminal activity to city residents, but it was only the latest in a long string of outrageous incidents engaged in by Rob Ford.

And on the video watched around the world, Ford also made typically bigoted remarks, calling the man who is now Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, a "fag" and made obscene slurs against football players he coached, calling them "minorities".

Even still, many voters continued to support Ford.

The revelations about Ford's fondness for crack cost him only a temporary dip in the polls.

It was only after cancer forced Ford from his re-election campaign that his eventual successor, John Tory, knew he would win.

Even though he campaigned mostly from his hospital bed, Ford won re-election to the City Council in October 2014.

An exception to his hospitalisation was when he was kicked out of three advance polling stations by election officials.

Ford's supporters didn't care much about these activities.

He had a deserved reputation for being personally and swiftly responsive to his constituents' concerns.

His foibles made him seem like an approachable, normal guy.

"They see him as a big dumb guy like them - a Rodney Dangerfield type who just can't get no respect," a University of Toronto political scientist explained.

"I'd much rather a crack addict than some Ivy League nepotistic scum any day," one of his voters said.

Ford had a less-deserved reputation for being a man of the people - he was born wealthy, his signature concern was low taxes, and he expressed contempt for women, gays, blacks, Jews, Italians, Asians, and most other people who didn't look like him.

But even if he didn't like people very much, people liked him.

Rob Ford wasn't an everyman but he played one in real life.

He drank, swore, and committed crimes while in office that should have delivered him to prison under an equal justice system.

And in all this, Rob Ford wasn't un-Canadian. He was every bit as Canadian as clean water, maple trees, and Mounties.

O Yeah, Canada: The Border Republicans Forgot  
An article from the New York Times

The Republican presidential candidates who battled for votes in New Hampshire last week, rousing the rabble with their usual talk of scary aliens at the border, were strangely silent about the closest international boundary. They did not warn of the Canadians who flood south by the millions each year to play and work, taking our Christmas-tree-selling jobs. They did not mention the Canadian scofflaws — nearly 100,000 in fiscal 2015 — who overstay their visas, the most of any nationality.

Read more at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/15/opinion/o-yeah-canada-the-border-republicans-forgot.html>

Canada and U.S. closer than friends

After months of planning and plenty of anticipation, the red carpet was finally rolled out at the White House and the first state dinner for a Canadian prime minister in 19 years took place.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, were greeted at the front door of the famous residence by President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle. The cameras were lined up to capture the glamour and style.

Learn more and watch the videos at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/justin-trudeau-tells-white-house-state-dinner-canada-and-u-s-closer-than-friends-1.3483695>

Justin Trudeau's visit to Washington grabs attention of U.S. media

'His presence serves as a reminder of the kind of fun we're not having,' writes Boston Globe commentator.

Read more and watch some videos at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/justin-trudeau-us-media-coverage-1.3485939>

See also:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/trudeau-in-washington/article29171736/>

Justin Trudeau apologizes in House for 1914 Komagata Maru incident

'No words can erase the pain and suffering they experienced,' Trudeau says of victims.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has formally apologized in the House of Commons for the Komagata Maru incident in 1914, in which hundreds of Sikh, Muslim and Hindu passengers were denied entry to Canada and forced to return to an uncertain and ultimately violent fate in India.

Opposition Leader Rona Ambrose, NDP Leader Tom Mulcair, BQ Leader Rhea Fortin and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May also rose to add their voices to the apology and to offer their own remarks.

"Canada does not bear alone the responsibility for every tragic mistake that occurred with the Komagata Maru and its passengers, but Canada's government was without question responsible for the laws that prevented these passengers from immigrating peacefully and securely, for that, and for every regrettable consequence that followed, we, are, sorry," Trudeau said.

Read more at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/komagata-maru-backgrounder-apology-1.3584372>

## Canadian History

New evidence of Viking life in America?

A new discovery has revealed that the Vikings may have travelled hundreds of miles further into North America than previously thought. It's well known that they reached the tip of the continent more than 1,000 years ago, but the full extent of their exploration has remained a mystery, writes historian Dan Snow.

After a long hike across boggy ground and through thick pine forests, clutching pepper spray to protect against bear attacks, Sarah Parcak and her small team of archaeologists stood on an exposed, wind-blasted headland in North America.

Exhausted but happy, they had been led to Point Rosee in Newfoundland by the most high-tech weaponry in the modern archaeological arsenal - satellite data captured 383 miles (600km) above the Earth. But once here they were back to using trowels and brushes. I joined them to see how this powerful combination of new and old allowed them to make what could be a seismic discovery.

Read more at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35935725>

Afar in the Forest

Pictures of Life and Scenery of the Wilds of Canada by Mrs. Traill

WE have much pleasure in placing before our readers a New and Revised Edition of a book which was formerly popular under the title of "Lady Mary and her Nurse". The present edition has been considerably improved, so as to increase its attractions for the young. It contains much pleasant information, and many interesting anecdotes respecting the plants and animals of our great Canadian Colony, and not a few lively details of the habits and customs of the Indians, now fast disappearing before the encroachments of European civilization. Both girl and boy may find amusement and instruction in these pages, whose perusal will advantageously occupy a leisure hour, and store their minds with many useful facts about the wild animals and natural curiosities of North America.

You can download this book at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/pioneering/afarinforest.pdf>

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## Religion

Soldiers of the Church

The Story of What the Reformed Presbyterians (Covenanters) of North America, Canada, and the British Isles, did to Win the World War of 1914-1918 By John W. Pritchard (1919)

The authentic records gathered and preserved in this volume show the part which the Covenanter Church took in the great war of 1914-1918 to defend Christian liberty and democracy against the long-premeditated and gigantically prepared-for attack of Germany and her allies, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and Bulgaria, in an effort to dominate the world by a brutal and immoral military despotism.

These records establish the fact that the Covenanter's attitude toward civil government does affect his loyalty to his country but that it affects it by emphasizing it, and they show that 7<sup>4</sup> per cent of the entire membership of the American Covenanter Church were enrolled in the various departments of military service, a percentage probably greater than that of any other denomination.

People who do not understand, marvel that a Covenanter will give his life for his country but withholds his vote at election time. A Covenanter will give his life because of his loyalty to his country, and withholds his vote at election time because of his loyalty to Christ. To become a soldier he is required to swear loyalty to his country, and that he is always eager to do; but to vote at an election he is required to swear to a Constitution of Civil Government that does not recognize the existence of God, the authority of Christ over the nation, nor any obligation to obey His moral law; and that his conception of loyalty to Christ will not permit him to do.

This volume is 'published to show the true character of the Covenanter, and to aid in securing for him

his rightful place in history.

The Scotch are proverbially prompt, thorough and fearless in performance, but loth to talk of their achievements; and in their war work, herein recorded, all Covenanters show their Scotch ancestry. More than six hundred, American Covenanters were in the war, above two hundred of whom went overseas, and many of these were with Pershing fighting their way to the Rhine. The secretary of the Church's Win-the-War Committee told how all but impossible it was to get any of our ministers, so many of whom rendered splendid service and a great deal of it, here at home, to report their work. And the boys in the flaming battle lines, like their pastors, are true sons of their heroic forbears. Scores of others than Covenanter soldiers published whole books of their adventures in trenches, going over the top, and in NoMan's Land, and thrilled audiences with their stories. But Covenanter soldiers wrote never a line to their own Church weekly, and their home letters from the front line trenches, or from "Somewhere in France enroute to the Rhine," at least those letters of which we have learned, almost invariably concluded with a warning not to allow the Editor of their Church paper to have them.

Prof. Wm. M. Sloane, author of The Century Co.'s "Life of Napoleon," of "The Balkan States," and other standard histories, in an article written for the Christian Nation, spoke of the high place accorded to Covenanters by great historians after the Reformation, but only the most widely read and unprejudiced students of both political and Church history understand why they merit such distinguished praise. The Covenanters themselves have not written history. They have merely made it. And so, the author of this volume, himself denied the privilege of companionship with his young friends in the camps or on the battlefields, is endeavoring to do for them that which they would not even assist in doing for themselves, relate their share in history-making during the period of the war, enshrine their deeds, and perpetuate the memory of their valor and their loyalty to Christ and their country.

Download Solders of the Church at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/bible/soldiers.htm>

The Gentle Persuasion

By Alan Gray

The Colonel's Funeral

MANY years have come and gone since I, Alan Gray, bade farewell to bonny Glenconan, in which I spent the happy days of my childhood; during these years I have feasted my eyes on some of the loveliest scenery in the Empire; my lot has been a most varied one, bringing me in contact with all sorts and conditions of men; yet in spite of these things I have never forgotten, and never can forget, the quiet sylvan beauty of my native glen, or the quaint old-world characters, who then lived in it, all now, alas, gone over to the great majority.

The other day I had occasion to make a long and tedious journey across the snow-covered, frost-bound prairie. There was no wind to speak of; the air, though keen, was not too cold for comfort; my sleigh was well equipped, my horses strong and willing; my Jehu, a French Canadian, could speak very little English, and my French was very rusty; and so as conversation was denied me, I lay back among the fur robes, and fell into a reverie. On the previous evening I had been in the company of a very dear friend, the Rev. Harold Courtney, one of the most devoted and enthusiastic clergymen in the great Northwest. In the course of conversation he happened to remark; "I have often wondered, Gray, what led you, the son of Presbyterian parents, to become an Anglican. You are not the sort of man that would act in a matter like this without the strongest convictions. How did it all come about?"

"Well, Courtney, it is too long a story to tell tonight. You are right, however, in supposing that I could not have made the change without being fully convinced of the superior claims of the Anglican branch of the Church. It took me a long time to unlearn what had been so carefully taught me in my younger days, and to see the defects of the system in which I had been reared. It meant the severing of many associations that were very dear to me. Some day, perhaps, I'll tell you the whole story."

Doubtless it was the memory of this chat that set my wits awandering, and called up before my mental vision scenes and incidents of long ago that had made lasting impressions upon my

impressionable nature. How vividly I could realize those scenes: I can see them clearly still. Let me tell you all I saw as I dozed in my sleigh that fine January day.

I saw myself again a boy in my native town of St. Conan's on the northeast of Scotland. The country was clad in the russet mellow robes of harvest. I could see the Conan Water pursuing its quiet journey to the sea between finely wooded banks. On the north bank there was the Craig, a little hamlet consisting of St. Conan's Episcopal Church, the Parsonage, the Craig inn, where the "Defiance" coach used to stop and change horses on its way to and from the city, and a few cottages; on the opposite bank the long straggling village of St. Conan's. St. Conan's had for many centuries been a place of considerable importance; its Moot Hill, where in olden days the Earl of Buchan held his Court and where justice was executed, was still pointed out to the curious. A fine old one-arched bridge spanned the river and formed the bond of union between Craig and St. Conan's. The main street of the village ran parallel with the river and ended eastward in the market square, where stood the old Presbyterian parish church, the old parish school and the principal places of business.

On this day which stood out so clearly in my vision, the school was deserted and the whole village was more than usually quiet. The flag on the tall staff in the square was floating at half-mast; the shutters were on every shop window, and the blinds were down in every house. At intervals the tolling of a bell resounded through the air. Groups of men in their best Sunday "blacks" were wending their way towards the great entrance gate of the castle.

The school children were all on the qui vive for what was about to happen. I could see myself among the rest, a lad of twelve, comfortably clad in homespun, eagerly watching for the funeral cortege that would soon appear. At last it came. No hideous hearse was there; but relays of the local volunteer company, in their picturesque tartan trews and scarlet tunics, took turns in bearing the body to its last resting-place. Colonel Forbes, the brother of our "auld laird" had been a famous soldier, and the men who loved his family and name were carrying him to tiis burial after the manner that belonged to the Forbeses of Glenconan. In front of all strode a stalwart piper, in kilt and plaid of the same dark green tartan, that of the Clan Forbes, playing a weird and mournful coronach. In my vision I could see the long procession take its way by the main street bridge towards St. Conan's church on the Craig. At the gate it was met by a little white-robed company of men and boys, who turned and led the way through the churchyard, the clergyman reciting the introductory sentences of the Anglican burial service. When they reached the church door, six of the oldest tenants on the Glenconan estate took the casket from the bearers and carried it up the nave to the chancel steps, where the first part of the office was said.

Shall I ever forget the beauty and solemnity of that service? It was so different from any service I had ever seen. All was so orderly and so void of anything like gloom.

There was undoubtedly a great deal that to my boyish mind was unintelligible, but the general impression produced on me was so profound that I was thrilled to the heart in a way I had never been before.

Following the cortege out from the chancel to the east end of the churchyard, I heard the words of Christian hope in a glorious resurrection spoken by an old and venerable man of commanding appearance, when the casket had been lowered into the grave, which was lined with moss and flowers; I listened entranced while the choir sang the beautiful hymn:

"Father, in Thy gracious keeping Leave we now Thy servant sleeping." and then, when all was over, I crept away out of the crowd, to ponder over what I had seen and heard.

Brought up on the Shorter Catechism, explained, or I should say distorted, by stern and unbending teachers, I actually believed there was nothing good in any other faith. But here I had been brought face to face with a new phase of Christian belief, and one which to my boyish mind was far more beautiful than that to which I had been accustomed. Young as I was, I had thought a good deal about such matters. Were I to go to my father, he would give me no sympathy, but tell me to mind my lessons, and leave such things for older heads to consider. There was, however, one man in the village with whom my fondness for books made me a great favorite. This was old Mr. Lindsay, who had himself been a probationer of the "Auld Kirk", but who, because of inability to sign the Confession of Faith, had never been received into the ministry. For many years he had been a teacher of a semi-private school in another parish; but ever since I could remember he had been living near our home,

retired from professional life, and spending most of his time among his books. To him I would go for advice and instruction.

As soon as our frugal supper was over, I said to my mother, "Mother, I am going to see the auld dominie, and get him to help me wi' a gey hard Latin version that I have to do for the morn."

"Weel, weel, Alan, do ye sae, but see ye dinna bide ower late, else your father 'll no be pleased."

In a few minutes I had knocked at the old man's door and had been admitted into the sanctum, where I had spent many a happy evening among the books.

"Come awa, laddie, and sit you doon. What's the difficulty the nicht? I haena seen ye for twa or three days. Are they all weel at hame?"

"Yes, thank ye, Mr. Lindsay, a'boddy's fine, I hae a question or twa I wad like to speir at ye, if you please, about the use of the ablative absolute; but," and I hesitated, "It was something else I wantit maistly to speak to you aboot. I gaed to the colonel's burial the day.

"Aye, weel, we'll take the Latin first, syne we'll hear aboot the ither maitter. My leg was gey troublesome the day, else I wad hae gone to the funeral. He was a good man was the auld colonel, ane o' the 'gentle persuasion,' in the richt sense o' the word, an' deserved a' the respect that could be shown him."

In a few minutes I had told my difficulty in the Latin version and had the construction fully explained; and you may be sure, my books were very speedily replaced in my schoolbag.

"Noo," said Mr. Lindsay, taking a pinch of snuff from his silver box and leaning back in his arm chair. "Ye was at the funeral, ye wis saying'. What thocht ye o' that? There would be a lot of folk there, Til warrant-I heard the pipes playing the coronach and I couldna help thinking of the many times that the sound of the pipes had sounded in the old colonel's ear as he led his Highlanders to victory."

In my simple Scotch way I tried to tell my old friend all I had seen and heard.

"It wasna like ony ither burial I ever saw. They didna hae a black mortcloth ower the coffin, but a purple ane. Wasna that queer?"

In ordinary conversation the dominie used the broad Doric Scotch of our part of the country; when he had any instructions to give or any important thing to communicate he spoke in good colloquial English, although sometimes a Scotch word might creep in.

"Weel, you see, Alan, the Episcopalians have a meaning in their use of colors. They teach through the eye as well as through the ear, just as our Master did. For several hundreds of years purple has been used as the emblem of penitence and sorrow; and as penitence and sorrow for sin, if genuine, will bring peace, so this color teaches that mourning for one who is dead in Christ is not without hope, but will end in the joy of the resurrection morning."

"What a beautiful idea, Mr. Lindsay, I never thought they had any meaning in it at all, but just used that color because it was pretty. And they had, oh! such lovely flowers made up in wreaths and crosses, laid on the coffin. Oor folk never hae onything o' that kind."

"No, the auld kirk likes to make death as gloomy as possible. In fact they look on death as if he were always an enemy. Now the Episcopalians teach that if a man is seeking first the Kingdom of Christ he has nae need to fear at death. To hear some Presbyterians speak you would think that death meant an end o' a' thing; whereas the English Prayer Book teaches that it is only the beginning of another stage of life. In a book I have here, by a great man called Tertullian, who lived in the fourth century, it is said that the Christian Church of the first days turned the gloom of the funeral into a triumph, and that between the death and the burial their religious exercises were expressive of peace and hope. They felt that death could not and did not separate them from the love of their heavenly Father or from the fellowship of the saints; and so they made use of palms and flowers to give expression to their hope and trust."

'Now I hope I understand better the meanin' o' what I saw to-day. But, there wis ae day nae long ago I heard auld Willie Scott the mason—and ye ken he's great on religious matters—say to a man in Jamie Keith's smiddy that there wis only a tissue paper wall between the English Kirk and Roman Catholics. He said that their white gowns, an' organs, an' chantin' an' hymns, were a' relics of popery. It wis jist a kirk for the 'gentle persuasion, 'he said; they dinna want ony poor folk there." "Dinna ye heed ony o' auld Willie's havers; he's only a poor narrow-minded body, an' disna think anybody will be saved except the 'Auld light' folk. The white gowns were used in the oldest and purest ages of the Church, more than a thousand years before the black Geneva gown was heard of, an' as to organs, weel, King David himsel' played on a harp, an' I'm thinking if the Almighty was pleased wi' that, he wouldna hae ony objection to a grand instrument like the organ. As for the chantin' there was plenty o' that in the temple when the Maister Himsel' was worshipping there, and gin He had thocht there wis onything wrang He wad sune hae let them hear about it. If Willie thinks the English version o' the Psalms is inspired, he's awfu' sair mista'en. Some of the metre Psalms are perfect doggerel."

"But I'll tell you Alan, he spak' a true word when he said that the Episcopalian kirk was the kirk o' the gentle persuasion; for there is something in it, as a system, that helps to make a man gentle, and kind, and unselfish. No doubt there may be many imperfect characters among them, but the teaching of their Church, the use of their Prayer Book, their ordinances and Sacraments, all help to make them o' 'the gentle persuasion.' Why, laddie, the very service ye heard the day is a proof o' the perfect democracy of her system. It is the same burial service that she uses for the poorest of her people as for the most exalted in rank. So you see in the way Willie meant she's not the kirk o' 'the gentle persuasion'."

"Thank ye very much for takin' the trouble to explain all this to me. I wis wonderin' if ye could lend me an auld Prayer Book for a day or two; I would like to read a bit o't."

"Surely I'll dae that, Alan;" and with that he went to his book-shelves, took down a copy of the Book of Common Prayer and handed it to me.

Putting the precious volume in my pocket, I set out for home, arriving there in time for family worship, which, according to the custom of his people, my father conducted every evening.

Such was my day dream. So was the first seed sown many years ago; but to me it sometimes seems as yesterday, so vividly can I recall it all. My reverie was a pleasant one. By and by I may go back in spirit to those old days and tell you something more of the way by which God led me, and some of the difficulties which I had to overcome, before I could throw in my lob with the great Anglican Communion.

You can read this book at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/books/pdf/gentlepersuasion.pdf>

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## Video's worth watching

The mouse messiah bringing salvation to India's atheists

According to devotees of India's Dinkoist movement the universe was created by a cartoon mouse called Dinkan many millions of years ago. But Dinkoism itself is one of the world's newest faiths having only been created by atheists in 2008 as a vehicle for parodying the excesses of organised religion.

But while some followers of other religions don't see the joke, social media is helping Dinkoism gain new converts.

View a short video about this at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-36000588>

## Mastercrafts

I came across this excellent series of 6 videos which takes you through 6 crafts of Green Woodcraft, Stained Glass, Blacksmithing, Stonemasonry, Weaving and Thatching. There are not many of these real crafts people left and in this series 3 students are trained in each of the crafts and so you can learn a lot from each one.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S93-z86ydZo&spfreload=1>



Sir David Attenborough and President Obama

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZtJ2ZGyvBI>

This Beautiful Story Shows What Makes a Man a True Hero

This video, made in Thailand, really touched my heart. It brings to light the real heroes of everyday life. We don't usually notice them, cameras don't follow them, they look like anyone else on the street. But they make this world a better, more tolerable place to live in, and for that, I thank them.

<http://www.ba-bamail.com/video.aspx?emailid=20883>

The blackfly song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjLBXb1kgMo>

China: The bus that will drive over cars

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-36390419>

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## Meaning of Flag Draped Coffin

Have you ever noticed the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times?

You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life.

The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, 'Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.'

The 6th fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic.

The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father,

the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their Nations motto, 'In God We Trust.'

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning.

In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.

Share this with the children you love and all others who love what is referred to, the symbol of 'Liberty and Freedom.'

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## A Rainbow Tomorrow

A Story of Alzheimers by Donna Flood

Just as I was finishing this newsletter I got in this story and thought it would be good to share it with you.

It can be downloaded at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/america/donna/ARainbowTomorrow.pdf>

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## A Wee Bit of Humour

How to control your parent: a guide for toddlers

By Michael Deacon

Like many desperate parents, I'm constantly reading books on how to control your toddler. There are loads on the market, full of practical techniques.

Recently, however, it's dawned on me that our toddler actually uses similar techniques on us.

Has he been reading a book on how to control your parents?

I think I can imagine the kind of advice it contains...

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2016/04/08/how-to-control-your-parent-a-guide-for-toddlers/>

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THE BACK NINE

AND THEN IT IS WINTER

You know ... time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But, here it is... the back nine of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that I was only on the first hole and the back nine was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me...but, I see the great change....Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, that though I'm on the back nine, and I'm not sure how long it will last...this I know, that when it's over on this earth...it's over. A new adventure will begin! Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not on the back nine yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the back nine or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life....so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!

"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.LIVE IT WELL! ENJOY TODAY! DO SOMETHING FUN! BE HAPPY ! HAVE A GREAT DAY Remember "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.

LASTLY, CONSIDER THIS:

- ~Your kids are becoming you.....but your grandchildren are perfect!
- ~Going out is good.. Coming home is better!
- ~You forget names.... But it's OK because some people forgot they even knew you!!!
- ~You realize you're never going to be really good at anything like golf.
- ~The things you used to care to do, you aren't as interested in anymore, but you really don't care that you aren't as interested.
- ~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV 'ON' than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".
- ~You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch..
- ~You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what?"..."when?"... ???
- ~You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless"?!!!
- ~What used to be freckles are now liver spots.
- ~Everybody whispers.
- ~You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear.

~~~But Old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!!

Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!" Send this on to other "Old Friends!" and let them laugh in AGREEMENT!!! It's Not What You Gather, But What You Scatter That Tells What Kind Of Life You Have Lived.

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN; YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE, SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS

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## Notable Upcoming Events

Canadian                      International

Tuesday 07 June 2016 Windsor Priory dinner meeting at the Church Of The Ascension. 6 PM for fellowship, with dinner at 7 PM.

Sunday 21 August 2016 Windsor Summer Social at Beach Grove Golf and Country Club. 3 PM- 7 PM.

Saturday 24th September 2016, Toronto Investiture with dinner at the RCMI.  
OSMTH Grand Convent General Sofia, Bulgaria 12-16 October 2016  
Saturday 05 November 2016 Windsor Ascension Priory Investiture. More information to follow.  
Sunday 11 December 2016 Windsor Christmas Social at Beach Grove Golf and Country Club. 3 PM – 7 PM.  
OSMTH Grand Convent General Tomar Portugal, March 12-16, 2017.

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## Priory Contacts:

Grand Priory of Canada

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

St James Priory, Toronto

[H. E. Sir Nick Migliore](#)

Priory of Simon Peter, Ottawa

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

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