

The Canadian Templar



September 2015
Newsletter



News and Report from our Grand Prior

I hope you all enjoyed your summer and had a chance to enjoy some time off and relax. Some of the Priories had events during the summer and you can read about them below.

On the international front, the next OSMTH Grand Magistral Meeting will be in Cologne, Germany at the end of the month, with a few Canadians attending. One of the agenda items will be the approval of new Regulations and Orders as well as new Statutes. This will bring some greater standardization to our Order. OSMTH has had significant growth in the number of Grand Priories over the last decade; growing from a few predominantly English speaking countries to over 20 multi-lingual countries, each with their own traditions and organizational nuances. With this has come some challenges on our internal governance. Once all is finalized, they will be part of the framework to revise our own Canadian orders.



Another challenge of our relatively young organization is the collection and distribution of charitable funds. As has been stated in previous newsletters, our Canadian Revenue Agency is just one of many countries changing laws and making it more difficult for legitimate charities to operate. We

(OSMTH) have been waiting on the European Union to show some guidance on how they were going to tackle this similar issue. One would think this an easier task to have the EU show leadership to the rest of the world, but apparently not. At the end of last year, the 28 Member States of the EU failed to agree a consensus on moving the draft legislation forward, and the EU Commission and Presidency have therefore now removed the draft law from the EU legislative agenda in 2015. "While the not-for-profit / charities sector across the EU still appears to be lobbying for the draft legislation to move forward, it may now be several years before the EU's legislative processes pick this up again". This lack of consensus is causing OSMTH to re-think its own projects. This too will be discussed in Cologne.

Although the world is getting more complex and mayhem is the news every day, do not despair. Get involved. It is surprising how much influence one person can have – both positively or negatively, on the world stage. None of the problems will be solved overnight but bit by bit we can all make our own communities, Canada, and ultimately the world a better place.

Note the World Day of Pray on September 24, and the 24th of each month thereafter. See the article below for more information.

Blessings,

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

Editors Letter

As always I am providing reports on international news and a Canadian update. When it comes to International stories these are intended to make you think about what is going on in the world. There is constant news in the European media about the many refugees from the Middle East and Africa trying to get into Europe. While many reports are depressing I think you also have to consider the larger picture and look at two main situations. (1) Many of these refugees are economic and thus want to improve their lives by getting into Europe. (2) Many refugees are fleeing horrendous conditions in their own countries and just want to be safe.

Of the second kind I think a much better policy needs to be worked out on how we can welcome them and in the longer term find a way for them to return to their own homes by settling disputes in their home lands. Many of these types of refugees do actually want to go home if they can do so and live in safely. I note that many news items quote refugees as paying \$1200 to get transported to Europe. That kind of money would purchase you a flight to Europe but it's the visa entry permit that prevents this method being used. Perhaps there is a way around this?

On the Canadian Update this issue I am just highlighting some interesting news on what Canada is doing but nothing like the last issue where I was trying to show how Canada is engaging with the world.

Other items that I thought might be of interest are ones that provide a religious and educational theme such as the story I provide this issue on "Ministering Children" which gave me pause on how we educate our children and I am giving you the first chapter of this book to read here.

As we're a religious organisation I thought I should provide some religious material for you to read so included a Religion section in this newsletter. Let me know if this is of interest and I can continue it in future issues.

Again my thanks to our Knights and Dames for sending in articles or suggesting ones for me to cover and I hope you enjoy this issue. I'll be at the St James Priory Investiture in September so feel free to say hello and make any suggestions as to what you'd like to see in future issues. If you don't know me just look for the chap with the tartan bow tie! I also intend to go to the Windsor investiture as well. My contact details are at the foot of this newsletter so don't be shy about getting in touch.

Mind that older copies of this newsletter are available at:

News from the Priory of Ascension of Our Lord, Windsor



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONVENT AND INVESTITURE ON SATURDAY 07 NOVEMBER 2015 AT THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD, WINDSOR 1385 UNIVERSITY AVENUE AT 3:30 SHARP. THE BANQUET FOLLOWING WILL BE AT THE CABOTO CLUB 2175 TECUMSEH ROAD EAST, BEGINNING AT 5:30 PM.

Priory Summer Social Pictures





Sir Terry Pearce (Chancellor), Carol Delcol (artist of the Knight Before Christmas) Dame Gillian Stefanczyk And Prior Roy presenting a cheque to Dame Gillian for the Women's Welcome Centre, the proceeds coming from the auction of Carol's painting.

June Dinner Meeting Pictures





The photos are: Reverend Rielly McLaren addresses the Priory members on the Chaplaincy at St. Leonard's House, a halfway home for ex cons, Sir Roy Delcol displays the painting The Knight Before Christmas, painted by his wife Carol. The Chancellor Sir Terry Pearce and The Prior Sir Roy pull the lucky winning ticket for the raffle of the painting. Prior Roy addresses the group with an up date on Priory events and finally the sumptuous buffet set for us by Il Gabbiano Ristorante.

The Knights and Dames of our Priory had been working so very hard, we decided to give them most of the summer off with only two events scheduled.

The first was our June dinner meeting, where we dined on a gourmet buffet catered by Il Gabbiano Ristorante and featuring our AGM, our guest speaker, Reverend Rielly McLaren, the chaplain at St. Leonard's House (a halfway house for former inmates) and our annual auction of the painting The Knight Before Christmas, which raised money for the Women's Shelter.

The second event was our annual Summer Social held this year at Beach Grove Golf and Country Club. The meal was superb, the comradeship excellent and because it was so hot and humid outside, everyone was pleased to be indoors.

We offer our sincere thanks to Sir Walt and Dame Barb Pastorius for sponsoring our Priory for this event.

Increase in Investiture Banquet costs.

Since my Investiture in 2002 our Investiture Banquet cost has remained steady at \$80.00 per person. Everyone is aware that in that time food prices have increased significantly but we managed to keep our cost to members and guests at that \$80.00 rate, but last year we found ourselves in a deficit situation so this year we must raise our Banquet cost to \$90.00 per person.

I am certain everyone will agree that we have always enjoyed sumptuous meals at the Caboto Club and we plan to continue to do so, so because we haven't had an increase in all that time and because we always have such fine dining, I am confident you will agree with this necessary increase. Some other Priors have been over the \$100.00 per person for some time so I think we are still in the ball park for such festive events.

I am looking forward to seeing all our members and many guests at our Convent and Investiture and Banquet on Saturday 07 November!

Aiding humanity on the pilgrimage through life.

"BEAUSEANT"

nnDnn

Major (ret) Roy Embury CD, GOTJ

Prior of The Ascension Priory

News from St James Priory, Toronto

Book your place at our September investiture...



The Priory of St. James
ANNUAL
Investiture
2015

Saturday, September 26th 2015
at 4:00 pm
St. James' Cathedral
65 Church Street, Toronto

- Dinner to follow at The Royal Canadian military Institute, 426 University Ave, Toronto ON M5G 1S9
- Cost for Knights and Dames (included in Annual Fees of \$250.00) Guests are \$125.00 per person

Please RSVP sm@TRGOC.com and note any dietary restriction AND ENTREE CHOICE



The Sovereign Military Order
of The Temple of Jerusalem



THE PRIORY OF ST. JAMES
2015
INVESTITURE DINNER



MENU

APPETIZER
BABY SPINACH SALAD - with sliced strawberries, crunchy pecans and shaved fennel, raspberry vinaigrette

ENTREE #1
8oz NEW YORK GRILLED STRIPLIN - with charred shallots, mini Yorkshire pudding, green peppercorn jus

ENTREE #2
OVEN BAKED HERB CRUSTED SNAPPER - in a roasted red pepper sauce

DESSERT
CHEDDAR CRUSTED APPLE PIE - vanilla creme anglaise

6:00PM-7:00PM COCKTAILS | 7:00PM DINNER
PLEASE SPECIFY YOUR ENTREE SELECTION WHEN RSVP'ING
RCMI | 426 UNIVERSITY AVE. TORONTO, ON M5G 1S9

Home Security

I asked Nick if he could provide some tips on home security and he kindly sent in a graphic that they use internally. I extracted the information and so here is the advice...

DO make sure all doors and windows are locked and fastened. Doors should have deadbolt locks.

DO examine your house from the street and make sure no valuables, like expensive electronics or artwork, are visible from the street. If a passerby can see your belongings, so can criminals.

DO secure sliding glass doors by placing a metal rod or piece of plywood in the track to prevent an intruder from forcing the door open.

DO secure doors with glass panels with deadbolts on the inside that can only be opened with a key.

DO unplug the power to your automatic garage door to keep thieves from opening it with a universal remote.

DO lock the door to your attached garage. If the garage door lifts on a track, a C-clamp tightened on the track next to the roller can prevent the door from being opened.

DO make it appear that you're home - use timers on lights, radios, and televisions.

DO keep the perimeter of your home well-lighted. You can do this by installing low-voltage outdoor lighting.

DON'T leave a message on your answering machine saying you are on vacation.

DO leave the air conditioner on. A silent compressor on a hot day is a good indication you aren't home.

DON'T leave clues that you are away. Ask a trusted neighbor to pick up your newspaper and your mail instead of stopping service, which lets people know that you are gone.

DO ask that person to put your trash containers out for pick-up and put them back again when they're empty and park their car in your driveway occasionally to give your home a more lived-in look.

DO have your lawn maintained if you will be gone for more than a few days.

DON'T close your blinds when you leave on vacation if you usually keep them open. The more normal your home looks, the better.

DON'T post the details of your vacation for the whole world to see. Refrain from discussing your trip on social networking sites. It's like setting up a sign letting criminals know your house is ripe for the picking!

DON'T leave a portable GPS in your car when you use long-term parking at the airport. It'll alert thieves that you're not home and give them a convenient map to your house.

DO keep track of all the keys to your home and make sure they're in safe hands. Locking your doors is important, but up to 50 percent of burglaries involve the use of a key.

DON'T hide a key outdoors in a protected spot, either. Burglars know the best hiding places better than you do.

DO frost or cover your garage windows, burglars won't be able to tell if your car is gone.

DO consider installing a Reilly's home security system, and make sure it is activated when you leave. Recent studies have shown that homes without a working home security system are 300% more likely to experience a theft.

The Priory of St James has produced an information booklet for the order and you can download this at:

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

We have also produced our annual report for 2014/15 in pdf format which you can download at <http://www.electriccanadian.com/religion/stjamesreport2015.pdf>

News from the Priory of Simon Peter, Ottawa

This summer, the Priory of Simon Peter successfully moved 36 boxes of gently used hockey equipment to Edmonton then to Inuvik. This was accomplished with the generous help of **EXCEL TRANSPORTATION** of Mississauga. We have gotten this far once before but the difference this time is the process is recyclable. Those involved are willing to do it at least annually so we can now collect used equipment on a regular basis assured the transit to NWT is possible.

In July, several knights and dames attended a barbecue held at the Perley=Rideau Veteran's Health Centre. Our mission was to assist residents of the ward we sponsor (Ottawa 2 East) to travel to the courtyard and had an opportunity to visit and soak in some summer sun. In the photos we see our Prior (red T-shirt – it was Friday) visiting with some of the old soldiers. Some of our vets dined in the parasol under the watchful eye of Chevse. Nicole Lassaline while others chose a shady corner of the courtyard to visit and enjoy the fresh air.



In August, we had a merry time preparing lasagnas for service to the homeless ladies at the Cornerstone shelter. The six giant lasagnas were baked then frozen for service on 29 August when they will be served.



Bill Megill, GOTJ
Prior, Priory of Simon Peter

News from the Commandry of Edmonton

Greetings from the West,

The Edmonton Commandry has been busy with a recruitment focus and as we push toward our potential November Investiture we are hoping that this will be our year to convert from a commandry to a priory. We have been looking at a number of different things this past 9 months including succession planning for incoming leadership, stronger recruitment numbers, evaluating groups and charities that we would like to assist and over all better ways to accomplish our works.

To that end have continued to do our often regular charities including Hope mission on several occasions throughout the year. Hope Mission is a meal service for homeless and underprivileged people in the inner city of Edmonton. We often find this quite rewarding not only for our knights and dames but more importantly the pages. This gives our younger generation a good look at the priorities that people need to chose from in order to survive and live. Often comments we hear from potential postulants and pages is that I had no idea that there was such a variety of people attending this "soup kitchen". It is one of the event that we typically ask any potential postulant to come to before deciding to join the order. We have tried to make this a bimonthly event but we have all been exceptionally busy these past few months and as such its moved to a quarterly event.

We also had planned to assist Valour house here but due to some internal scheduling conflicts those events were postponed due to extreme guests of Valour house with very severe PTSD. We still remain willing and able to assist but are waiting on a green light to help with that organization. For any one curious Valour house is a home for military and first responders to house themselves during difficult times within their families. Think Ronald McDonald house for the military and first responders.

We had also been looking forward to working with STAR's air ambulance charity through a gala event this spring but due to downturn in the economy the event was cancelled due to lack of funding and poor support. We are looking at a few other charities to help but those are in the evaluation stages at this point.

So our tentative investiture date will be Late Oct early Nov with our hope of having the group move into priory status so to that end if you know of anyone in the Alberta area Edmonton or Calgary lets us know and we would be more than happy to reach out meet and greet and introduce them to the group. I will send around and email to all of the priors once we have confirmed a date with the Grand Prior.

nnDnn

Rob MacMullen KCTJ
Commander
Edmonton Commandry

Chaplain's Corner

From Archdeacon Ron Matthewman, Vicar General of OSMTH-I

Christian Greetings to all – Pass the message on:

To keep the faith – you have to give it away.

In July we received two important messages: One Joyful and one Sad. But isn't that true of the messages of scripture.

We are to "Rejoice with them that rejoice and weep with them that weep"
St. Paul's letter to the Romans Chapter 12. Verse 15

The message in which we are to rejoice came in the Proclamation, that, Bethany beyond the Jordan, The Baptismal site where Jesus was Baptized by John the Baptist, is to be a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

And for this we give thanks to God.

Editors Note: Uncovering Bethany beyond the Jordan

I came across a 9 part video about this which I thought you might like to watch at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ej45jLP1itw&list=PLBE0DD433B73EDC5E>

Also

The Dedication of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Bethany-Beyond-the-Jordan at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RJwyL-7Z-s>

But, alas, also in July we heard the sad message that The Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes, at Tabgha, the site of the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand had been destroyed by vandals in an arson fire.

Bishop Munib Younan, Bishop of Jordan and the Holy Land, and Chaplain General of OSMTH-I In a message to the Monks who cared for the Church, and to all Christians, said "this atrocity is not only a crime against this Church it is a crime against all Christian people who believe and worship the One True God and must be denounced vehemently."

The Church was built on the site of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes in the feeding of the five

thousand. And despite the atrocity against it, this place will survive the hatred and will remain a Spiritual Haven and Blessing for all.

The Bishop finishes his message, saying, Jesus consoles us, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" Luke 12, 32.

I share these messages with you asking you to pray and support our Christians at Risk programme; to pray for peace in the world, and for salvation for all of God's children.

Blessings.

nnDnn

Archdeacon Ron Matthewman, Vicar General of OSMTH

Editors Note: See a video of the church before the destruction at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IW4S-0YLLs>

Also it would be good to get an article in on our "Christians at Risk programme" for a future issue.

Grand Chancellors Corner

What an incredible summer . . . I had promised myself not to complain no matter how hot it got in the midst of the endless winter we endured: and I haven't! Every steamy, hot, sun-burning day has been enjoyed to the full. I think I even managed to defrost the bits and pieces I never expected to feel again. And the Ex has once again claimed my heart (at least the parts not stuck in my throat after hitting all the rides with the grandchildren) as the perfect end to a perfect summer.

I do hope your summer days have also been a time of renewal and refreshment, of family and friends, and some daydreaming of what you can do to make the world a better place . . . after all, that is why you became a Templar . . . is it not?

The media regularly informs us of the latest heroes and villains: the assassins and those who stop them. Some of the stories have been heartbreaking, whether the destruction of the art of the centuries: lovingly carved monuments to one's God or ruler; the vicious beheading of an elderly archeologist or the pictures of drowning refugees who sought to flee the disasters that have overtaken their homelands.

And then we consider how the gifts of modern media have been prostituted into weapons for the butchers to enlist the sadistic, the foolish and the confused. Another tragedy of our time as they broadcast highly professional nightmares of ever more extreme modes of torture and death . . . drownings, incinerations, men forced to sit upon bombs that are then detonated, and school children slitting throats rather than learning their 3 R's.

And all these abominations perversely claimed in the name of faith and Allah.

And as these horrors are nightly beamed into our evening news, we, here in Canada, have the incredible privilege of looking around our peaceful land, where we waste more energy complaining about traffic disruptions than cheering on our athletes, more time fussing over political chicanery than evaluating their actual policies and results, and where we take all our freedoms for granted and ignore the possibility that with freedoms come responsibilities.

As Templars we do have those responsibilities. We have chosen to take an oath that binds us to the Christian life and to care for others.

And so, as we head into the Fall, when Canadians really do make their resolutions and plans for the upcoming year (yes, New Year's Day should fall on Labour Day) I want to share my hopes for our Canadian Templars:

I hope your plans include how you can increase your commitment to charity . . . whether of your worldly resources or your time: and preferably both.

I hope your resolutions include smiling more and worrying about the past less. Looking forward not looking back. And living each day to the full.

I hope you are committing yourself to your neighbours, both here and abroad, so that you will support efforts to make the world a safer place for everyone: where ISIS no longer claims young hearts and tears hearts out of those who follow Christ. A world where we live in harmony with our neighbours and delight in their successes and support them in their sorrows.

I hope you will be writing letters and making phone calls and tracking down those decision makers whose choices affect all our lives. And I trust that on the 19th day of October, you will be casting a ballot for the person and the party you believe will make the most positive difference in the world as well.

I hope to see some of you in Cologne for the International meeting and, if not there, do make plans for the April meeting in Copenhagen: where plans are afoot for another retreat: both of which I highly recommend.

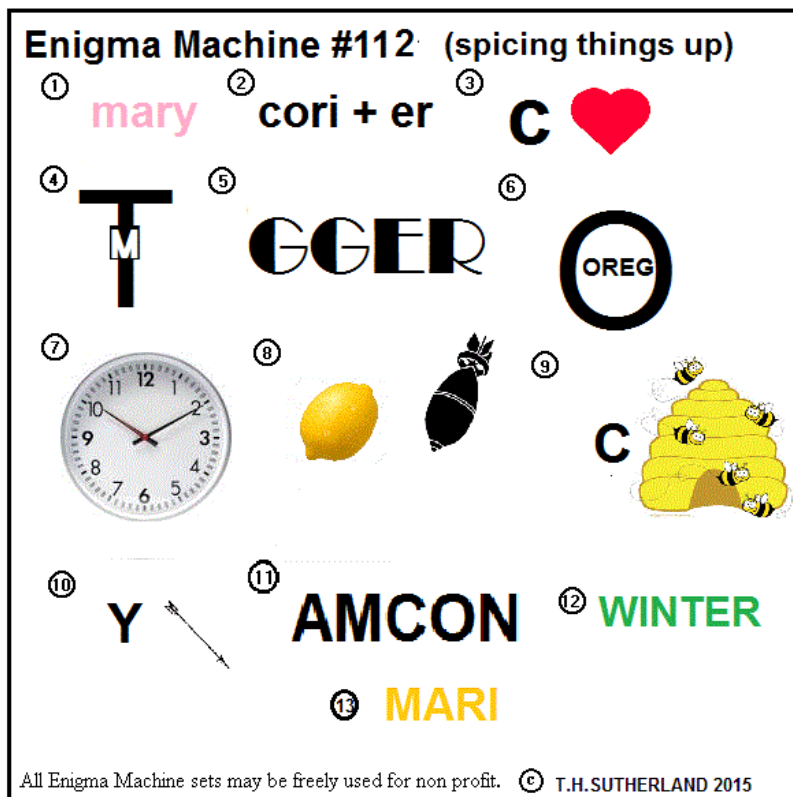
I hope you will be spending more time working to make the Templars more effective and efficient and fun. Volunteer, write a cheque, enlist a new member, write an article, visit a site, dream up something new and exciting.

May God bless you in all you do and may the cross of our Order be emblazoned upon your heart: that you will ever come to the defense of the weak and broken and weary, as you accompany them on this pilgrimage through life.

Enigma Machine

I know many magazines include a crossword or word puzzle in each issue so thought I'd include our own Canadian version here.

Solve the clues given here and then refer to the foot of this newsletter for the answers. Should you be uncertain on how to solve this see our explanation of how it works at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/enigma/index.htm>



If you select the graphic and then right click over the highlighted graphic you can save it to your own PC and then print it out and add the answers to the back. You'd then be able to give this to family and friends.

International News on the work of OSMTH

AN OPEN LETTER TO WORLD LEADERS FROM A BISHOP IN JERUSALEM AND A REFUGEE

1 September 2015
Jerusalem

Dear leaders of the world and people of good conscience,

I write to you from Jerusalem to address the very serious refugee situation affecting countries across the Middle East and now Europe. I myself am a refugee, as well as a bishop. Both my faith and my history oblige me to speak up for these women, men, and children who are washing up on beaches, are found decomposing in trucks on the highway, are crossing borders of barbed wire, and are barely surviving in makeshift camps. The last weeks have seen not only an increase in the numbers of these refugees, but also an increase in tragic outcomes for many. This is a shameful situation, and one which the international community cannot ignore. It must be remembered that refugees are not vacationers. They did not leave their homes because they were looking for adventure. They are displaced as a result of poverty, violence, terror, and political conflict. Frustration and fear lead them to risk their lives and their life-savings in search of safe havens where they can live and raise families in peace. We must remember that these are not “waves” or “masses” or “hordes”—these are human beings who deserve dignity and respect. As a refugee and as Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, I have two messages for world leaders:

I believe it is the responsibility of the world community, including the European Union, to have a clear policy to accept the stranger among us. “Welcoming the Stranger,” a set of affirmations from faith leaders developed in collaboration with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, is a good place to begin and a good model to follow. Most major religious traditions in the world advocate welcoming the stranger, showing hospitality to all. In Matthew 25 Jesus says the nations of the world will be judged by how they treat the poor, the hungry, the immigrant: “And when was it that we saw you a stranger

and welcomed you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”

All political leaders are responsible for this current refugee crisis, either directly or indirectly. This is the result of a global system, not merely a local crisis. The international community has not helped solve the conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, including the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Economic and political interests have taken priority over peacemaking and dialogue. Our region has become so chaotic that it opens the door to extremists and terrorists; our people are becoming desperate. The Middle East needs justice and peace, not only to end the flow of refugees, but so that displaced people can return to their homes in dignity, and live in free democratic states. My words may be strong. They may be direct. But this humanitarian crisis requires even stronger actions. These people, our brothers and sisters, are crying: “Who will welcome us? Where is justice?” God hears the cries of the poor, the oppressed, and the refugee. I pray that soon, political leaders and policy makers in the Global North will also hear their cries. This will begin when leaders approach refugee communities not merely as problems to be solved, but as fellow children of God deserving accompaniment, dignity, and human rights.

For this reason, I urge all world leaders and people of good conscience to act quickly, for the sake of the humanity we share.

Bishop Dr. Munib Younan
Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

Editors Note: This was taken from our OSMTH web site.

29th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Agenda Item 4: Joint Oral statement, 24 June 2015
Speaker: Budi Tjahjono – Franciscans International

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

This is a joint statement of 15 NGOs. We would like to draw the attention of the Council to the urgent need to address Climate Change from a human rights perspective. The HRC is the only international mechanism that has the competency to fully and comprehensively address the human suffering we are witnessing today, and that will increase in severity from now until at least 2030 or 2040 due to the effects of climate change.

In December of this year the UNFCCC will meet in Paris. It is from there that the international community, especially those who are most immediately and adversely impacted by climate change, hopes that leadership and widespread support for global cooperation will emerge. The future of humanity and our earth, as we know it, is at stake.

We welcome the Council’s Panel Discussion on Climate Change and Human Rights in the March 2015 Session. Most panellists agreed that it is important to put a human face on the impact of climate and to address climate-related migration. Delegations called for mitigation and adaptation efforts to combat climate change that place people at the centre, are gender sensitive and ensure that the rights of the most vulnerable, including women, children, elderly, indigenous peoples and the poor are being upheld.

We also welcome the report prepared by four Council rapporteurs to inform the UNFCCC of the effect of Climate Change on the Full Enjoyment of Human Rights. It reaffirms that climate change can and does adversely affect the enjoyment of a broad range of human rights, especially the right to a safe life, to the highest standard of physical and mental health, to right to food and nutrition, to water and sanitation, to adequate housing to self-determination and in relation to the rights of those who are particularly vulnerable.

In this session, the Council will consider the adoption of a resolution on human rights and climate change. The on-going call from civil society members that was first expressed in the Council Social Forum in 2010 is still relevant today; the adverse impact of Climate Change on the full enjoyment of Human Rights must be addressed without delay. More than ever the Council should have the issue permanently on its agenda and should establish a mandate for a UN Special Rapporteur on Human

Rights and Climate Change to assess its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights.

The mandate would allow for country visits, the reception of communications from victims and affected communities, the collection of information regarding good practices including international cooperation, and solidarity in the field of combatting climate change. Thank you.

This statement is supported by:

1. Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment and Human Rights (GIF)
2. Franciscans International
3. Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University
4. The World Council of Churches
5. Indigenous Peoples Ancestral Spiritual Council
6. Southern Diaspora Research and Development Center
7. Edmund Rice International
8. FIAN International
9. ATD Fourth World
10. Center for International Environment Law (CIEL)
11. The Planetary Association for Clean Energy (PACE)
12. German Forum for Human Rights
13. Sovereign military order of the temple of Jerusalem (OSMTH)
14. The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
15. Foundation for GAIA

OSMTH Philippines

The International Grand Commander, Col Dr Marcel de Picciotto together with the commander of the commandery of the Philippines, Lt Cdr Jose Adolpho B. Cruz, the commandery Chancellor, Capt Rodrigo Meia, and Atty Kristoffer James Purisima, commandery marshal had a formal call with the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines, HE Feliciano Belmonte, Jr.

See this video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjpU_-6wGk0

See also an OSMTH short video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wIQxnOtz0I>

Join Us to Pray for Peace on September 24th, 2015

Starting in December 2012, a number of religious organizations in the Holy Land decided to hold a prayer vigil on the 24th of every month for Palestinians and Israelis until violence ended and a just peace was announced to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

After another summer of violence, we want to ask our brothers and sisters around the globe to pray with us for a resolution to this conflict that will see a just peace with an end to violence. We are asking for you to sign up to our Thunderclap campaign to pray for peace in the Holy Land.

Thunderclap is the first crowd-speaking platform that helps people be heard by saying something together. With this platform, we are asking each of you to sign up for this campaign through social media. After signing up, a message will go out on September 24th, 2015 to you and your friends asking you to pray for peace in the Holy Land and providing you with worship resources to do so.

Our goal is to get 100 people to join us in praying for an end to violence in the Holy Land. Your support for this Thunderclap campaign will help this message be heard around the world.

Please help us to share about our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land with friends, family, and congregations.

Click on the link below to join us through social media:
<http://thndr.it/1Sy3QOL>

Work of the Knights Templar (OSMTH)

Our Vicar General telling us a little of the work of OSMTH which has got 105 views on YouTube.

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

Editors Note: It would be good if the Canadian Grand Priory could do a video to show the world what we are doing.

Grand Priory of England and Wales

I got in a communication from the Grand Prior in which he told me...

"Bonnie Scotland are still mentored by GP France, but (hopefully) not for much longer as E&W are in talks to merge with the Commandery of Scotland to form a new GPUK. The Scots and the French have already OK'd it, so the ball is in KTEW court now and we will take a vote during the summer".

He also kindly sent in a few of their newsletters and these can be viewed at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/Religion/ktew/index.htm>

Also I got sent in a wee article from them...

From the Office of the Grand Priory Chaplain General: Fr Michael Brain

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Born 1090 died 20th August 1153.

Bernard was born in south-eastern France in the year 1090 to a noble family.

The gifted 3rd son of a family of 7 children, he showed great aptitude during his studies with the secular canons (teachers) during his time as a student at Saint-Vorles.

In 1111, four years after the death of his mother, he withdrew from the world, and with his brothers and other relatives, entered the Abbey of Citeaux. He attracted a following, and eventually was asked by his superiors to found a monastery near Aube, in the region of Clairvaux (the Valley of Light).

He was not only a gifted writer, but a great speaker, and his wisdom was often sought by the Church leaders. Bernard preached his devotion to Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary, and was one of the early learned men to preach against schisms within the faith and the spreading of heresies across parts of France.

In 1128 about 10 years after the founding of the Knights Templar, he was empowered by the Council of Troyes to formulate and write a Rule for these spiritual soldiers of Christ.

Following this, the Order grew and spread rapidly across Europe.

Bernard died in 1153, and his relics are Clairvaux, but his skull is venerated in the Cathedral of Troyes. He is the Patron Saint of the Templars; Gibraltar; Queens College, Cambridge; candlemakers and other groups.

In part four of our Modern Rule: Be mindful that you are on the Crusade of the King of Kings.

"Unless you take up your cross and follow me, you have no part with me".
St Matthew's Gospel 16 v 24).

St Bernard also took the side of the Jews who were suffering persecution in the Rhineland, and today persecution is happening to many religious faiths, all of whom we should pray for.

Christians; Yazidis; Jews; and sections of Islam. For all who have been forced from their homes and countries. The world needs peace, and as well as our regular prayers for the Ukraine and the Holy Land, remember that the might of murdering terrorists is spreading its evil shadow of death constantly. Pray for St George's Church in Baghdad.

In our own countries never forget the homeless, the unemployed and the desperate.

For our brothers and sisters: Dame Debbie Simon; Reverend Fathers John Bernardi, John Hamilton, Andrew White, Barrie Williams; John Culley, Aiden Taylor, Amelia Reilly, Brian Maddox, Fernanda Pinto; Chevalier Denys Le Fevre.

May the prayers of Our Lady, St Bernard and all the Saints be with you.

The blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you always.

Fr Michael Brain.

Anti-Human Trafficking on OSMTH Agenda

Anti-Human trafficking was adopted as an authorized program by OSMTH International in 2010 after the issue was led and championed by then OSMTH Secretary General Simon Comte de Saint-Claire. Secretary General Saint Claire working within the United Nations UN.GIFT program participated with global agencies and OSMTH Grand Pories to generate local Priory awareness on Human Trafficking.

Brother Kim Derry, of the Priory of St. James in Toronto and former Deputy Chief of Toronto Police Service, joined the Order in 2014. Brother Kim is a world leader in coordinating agencies in the fight against Human Trafficking and in 2015 will found a new international non-governmental agency called GREAT. Working with Kim both as a senior Toronto Police Service member and co-founder of GREAT is a 2015 Postulant to the Priory of St James, James Brown.

The organization is in the charitable incorporation process in Canada under the name of Global Research Epicenter Against Human Trafficking (GREAT). It is not a foundation but an active charitable (non-governmental) organization addressing the worldwide need for a borderless, multi-sector resource and coordination center to combat Human Trafficking. It will assist countries and victims by identifying the limitations of resource availability, mandates, research and scope at most international agencies including INTERPOL, UNODC and EURPOL that have presented them the opportunity to design and implement this global resource center.

GREAT is a milestone of years of development and progress of organizations including "Together Let's Stop Traffick" (<http://www.togetherletsstoptraffick.org>), the FBI NAA (National Academy Associates), and the International Police Training Institute (IPTI). They are respected leaders representing international business, law enforcement, and NGOs and have become the foundation of the GREAT organization. There are approximately 100 individual contributing expert resources that are shaping the startup of GREAT.

Mission priorities are: 1) A comprehensive real-time intelligence database of ongoing international human trafficking organizations, programs, and resources. 2) A robust set of modern analytical tools to facilitate analytical support and information sharing with governmental, intelligence, law enforcement, and non-governmental agencies. 3) The development and maintenance of a repository of effective governmental policies, legislative frameworks, investigative procedures, and processes combatting human trafficking. 4) Sponsorship of Human Trafficking research and development projects. 5) Increased levels of rescue and recovery of victims through global coordination and a compendium of victim support resources. 6) Advancing public awareness and education of human trafficking in all its forms in order to reduce levels of victimization.

The success measures of GREAT will be the demonstrable impact to 1) Public and private awareness of human trafficking activities, trends, risks, and indicators. 2) Law enforcement dismantlement of human trafficking organizations. 3) Prosecution of human trafficking operators and enablers. 4) The rescue and reintegration of victims of human trafficking in all its forms. 5) Legislative progress.

The new non-governmental organization will increase knowledge, promote research, improve professional skills, and provide information sharing and analytical support to the global fight against Human Trafficking.

Brother Stuart W Ross, of the Priory of St James and Deputy Secretary General of OSMTH International has joined Brother Derry in the GREAT Initiative as Vice Chairman and a founding partner.

Deputy Secretary General Ross has very recently outlined the mission and principals of GREAT to OSMTH International leadership where he received a very strong endorsement from the Grand Master and Grand Commander in his proposal for OSMTH to reinvest in the anti human trafficking mission and negotiate a working partnership with the new GREAT organization.

The new GREAT organization will be based in Canada with Brother Kim serving as Chairman. Brothers and Sisters seeking to contribute in the mission against human trafficking should contact Brothers Kim and Stuart.

Stuart W Ross

International News

10th Anniversary of Katrina

In America they have been commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Katrina disaster in New Orleans. I note that the Canadian media is reporting that the RCMP were actually there before the Americans handing out water and doing what they could to help. This is actually something that gets passed over but it's important to know how Canadians have always helped our American neighbour just as they did in the 9/11 event.

40 maps that explain the Middle East

Maps can be a powerful tool for understanding the world, particularly the Middle East, a place in many ways shaped by changing political borders and demographics. Here are 40 maps crucial for understanding the Middle East — its history, its present, and some of the most important stories in the region today.

See <http://www.vox.com/a/maps-explain-the-middle-east>

Farkhunda: The making of a martyr

In March a mob in the Afghan capital set upon a woman who had been falsely accused of burning the Koran, beating her to death in a frenzied attack. As the mood of righteous anger turned to grief and shame, there were mass protests and a trial - but some of those convicted have now had their sentences cut, and others are already out of jail.

You can read more about this at: <http://tinyurl.com/qce2fln>

ISIS Enshrines a Theology of Rape

Claiming the Quran's support, the Islamic State codifies sex slavery in conquered regions of Iraq and Syria and uses the practice as a recruiting tool.

You can read more about this at: <http://tinyurl.com/nq8s4yn>

Why China warned the US to stay away From the BBC Magazine

A group of islands in the South China Sea may not sound particularly significant, but these recently-formed pieces of land could be the key to Beijing's future military strategy.

You can about this at <http://tinyurl.com/q8lssc3>

Incredible Floating Barge Makes it Possible to Grow Food on any Body of Water The modular Jellyfish Barge could be a solar-powered solution to food shortages.

Their concept, a floating, modular hydroponic greenhouse called the Jellyfish Barge, has already proven itself as a potential new avenue for growing fruits and vegetables.

Read more about this at: <http://tinyurl.com/oexvl43>

Is Syria's president losing his grip on power?

Future of Bashar al-Assad is increasingly in question as opposition fighters seize more territory.

There is an interesting discussion on Aljazeera TV which you might like to watch at:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/insidestory/2015/08/syria-president-losing-grip-power-150813185228259.html>

How Europe turned its back on humanity

Europe holds dear the tenets of tolerance, freedom, and human rights - except when it comes to migrants.

When talk turns, as it often does, to the issue of defining Europe's identity and values, its handling of the current "migration crisis" has to be one of the core concerns.

For a continent that collectively holds dear such tenets as tolerance, freedom, and human rights, how does Europe square those with its current approach in dealing with mass migration?

We are facing the largest movement of refugees since the World War II.

The number of people forced to leave their homes rose to a record 60 million last year - with most of those people fleeing Syria's horrific war or coming from countries such as Afghanistan, Eritrea, Somalia, and Iraq.

For some time now, the news has been of migrants making the most appalling and terrifying journeys and all too often dying in the process.

But the European response so far has been to vilify the people risking everything to get here, while fortifying borders: building more walls, erecting more fences, sending more militarised patrols, and raising the possibility of bombing the "death boats" that make those perilous journeys across the Mediterranean into Europe.

Overwhelmed by the crisis

There is no debate around the billions of euros spent building and guarding borders against migrants and refugees - no question that this money might be better allocated.

Instead, Europe seems to have swallowed wholesale the idea that it is about to be "swamped" by "illegal" migrants, overwhelming us with their filth, extremist terror, and less developed cultures.

Sometimes it is politicians using those damning, demonising words - such as British Prime Minister David Cameron describing people trying to get to the UK from a migrant camp at Calais as a "swarm".

In reality, most refugees aren't trying to get to Europe: There were 626,000 asylum applications across the EU's 28 member states - and a collective population of 500 million - last year.

The UK has committed to take in 500 Syrian refugees, of the four million fleeing the war in that country.

Lebanon, meanwhile, has taken in over a million people from Syria, while Turkey, with around two million Syrian refugees, is hosting the highest numbers.

But in Europe, at a politics and policy level, discussions focus on the concern that being somehow more "lenient" to migrants - by absorbing more, say, or by creating safe, legal migration routes, so that people trying to get to Europe don't end up dying, horribly and avoidably - will give electioneering ammunition to the far-right.

Dragged into hostility

Apparently, Europe is so troubled by an influx of dark-skinned foreigners, so enthralled by intolerant positions on migration, that liberal policies on the issue would actually be vote-losers.

But is this really where we want to go - allowing Europe's racist far-right to drag us into an ever more hostile response to a humanitarian crisis? Are these the values we have decided should define us now?

Across Europe - and with the exception of Sweden - it seems that the countries that have the lowest levels of migration are the ones where anti-immigrant parties are better represented in parliament.

It is pure ignorance that is fuelling this sentiment - and yet, instead of challenging these views, politicians are pandering to them.

As the walls go up around the borders of "Fortress Europe", they have blocked our capacity to see connections between our policies and the people living beyond our fortified frontiers.

For it seems that when the West gushed about free market globalisation, it was only intended as a one-way street: We get the cheap goods and the forcibly opened markets, while those in the developing world get the broken economies, the corrupt governments and the failed states that so often arise as a consequence.

Creating stability and security

And when we talked about creating stability and security, we only meant for us - not for those in countries whose repressive dictatorships we are supporting and bankrolling and furnishing with ever more effective weaponry.

It is ravaging, ideologically driven austerity that has crashed living standards across Europe, decimating public services and welfare, causing worry over resources and access to them.

And when we insisted military "interventions" in Iraq, or Afghanistan, or Libya, were humanitarian and liberating, we didn't plan or even think about the aftermath; the horrendous consequences that might follow.

Meanwhile, if neoliberal politics have created a staggering inequality of wealth, security and opportunity, it is now also informing our reactions to it.

After all, it is the logical response of neoliberalism - a rampaging economic ideology that puts profits before people - to see desperate migrants and refugees as an inconvenience to the smooth ticking-along of advanced capitalism: A disruption to the passage of goods; an inconvenience to the flow of tourism.

It is a race-to-the-bottom rationale that has decimated employment markets across Europe.

It acts to further ferment resentment, from people worried about insecure and low-paid jobs, towards migrants coming into the workforce.

Desperate for life

The real target for both groups should be the employers who keep driving down wages, and the governments that allow them to.

It is ravaging, ideologically driven austerity that has crashed living standards across Europe, decimating public services and welfare, causing worry over resources and access to them.

People don't risk death unless they are desperate for life.

People don't usually decide to violently uproot families and lives unless that is the only choice available to them. Rather than dream of Europe, refugees often wish to return home, if they could.

In the endurance of long, dangerous journeys, in the resourceful capacity for survival, in the courage and tenacity of attempts to cross borders, in the persistence of a propelling, perpetual, hopeful life

force in the face of unimaginable adversity, what people trying to get into Europe are repeatedly showing us is humanity.

And what we are showing, repeatedly, is that we have lost ours.

Rachel Shabi is a journalist and author of *Not the Enemy: Israel's Jews from Arab Lands*.

Canada's response to the situation in Syria

Since the start of the Syrian uprising in March 2011, Canada has worked to support the Syrian people. Canada has been active in calling on the international community to come together and defend the rights of the Syrian people to determine its own future.

Canada has also contributed generously to the various international efforts to aid the Syrian people, including those living as refugees in neighbouring countries, support Syrian civil society and counter the threat posed by chemical weapons.

To date, Canada has committed more than \$700 million in humanitarian, development and security assistance in response to the Syrian crisis. This support includes the following.

Since early 2011, the unrest in Syria has led more than 3.8 million Syrians to seek refuge in the nearby countries of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, resulting in significant humanitarian needs. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 12.2 million people inside Syria, including 7.6 million who are internally displaced, also need urgent help. It is estimated that more than 200,000 people have died in the ongoing conflict, with hundreds of thousands wounded.

Since January 2012, Canada has committed \$403.5 million to international humanitarian assistance in response to the Syrian crisis. This amount includes the \$50 million announced by Minister Paradis on January 7, 2015, for conflict-affected people in Syria and neighbouring countries, including Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, and the \$150 million announced by Prime Minister Stephen Harper on January 24, 2014, as well as prior commitments. This assistance is delivered through experienced humanitarian partners in response to urgent needs, and it is contributing to significant results on the ground.

Canada has also expanded its commitment to help Syrian refugees by resettling an additional 10,000 Syrians by the end of 2017, bringing to 11,300 the total number of Syrian refugees Canada has committed to resettling. Canada will work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and private sponsors to resettle these Syrian refugees in Canadian communities. Visit [Refugees and asylum](#) for more information about Canada's refugee protection programs.

Canada has already committed \$230.7 million to support development projects in the region to strengthen government services and infrastructure stressed by the influx of Syrian refugees, specifically in health, education and the delivery of basic services, and to address Jordan's specific development challenges.

Canada has committed \$67.2 million in security-related assistance to address the effects of the Syrian crisis, including \$52.51 million for Jordan. These funds will help mitigate the threat of chemical weapons and other weapons and materials of mass destruction, assist Jordanian security forces in managing the non-humanitarian aspects of the influx of Syrian refugees and contribute to Jordan's counterterrorism capacity. This support also includes \$3.8 million in stabilization assistance to Syrian activists and civil society members in areas such as civil administration, accountability, independent media and secure communications.

From Turkey to Sweden: Syrian migrant's perilous journey

The BBC's James Reynolds follows the progress of a young Syrian migrant, as she makes a perilous journey from Turkey to Sweden to claim asylum.

Watch the video at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34118978>

Loyalty Pays Off: Unlike US, Russia Remains True to Its Arab Partners

From sputniknews.com

Russia's loyalty to its Arab allies sharply contrasts with Washington's habit of abandoning its partners in the Middle East and could win Moscow new friends in the region, an Israeli news website focusing on investigative journalism asserted.

What's Behind Russia's Latest Round of Syrian Diplomacy?

Take Syria, for instance.

President Bashar al-Assad praised Moscow's policy toward Damascus as "principled" in a recent interview. "We have strong confidence in the Russians, as they have proven throughout this crisis, for four years, that they are sincere and transparent in their relationship with us," he noted.

Not surprisingly, Russia has recently stepped up its efforts to find a political solution to the ongoing conflict in Syria without forcing Assad to resign. The new peace initiative involves courting Arab nations. Moscow's logic is simple: Assad is not the enemy, Islamic extremists are.

"Russia's stance on Syria is rigid and consistent. President Putin has made it clear that Assad is Syria's legitimate president and Russia is against foreign involvement [in the country's affairs] which will force the Syrian people to accept certain conditions, like securing peace in exchange for Assad's resignation," the media outlet noted.

It is against this background that Russia suggested creating an anti-terrorist coalition, including Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey. Vladimir Putin also tried to serve as a mediator between Assad and Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, but representatives of both sides failed to reconcile their differences during a recent visit to the oil kingdom, News1 noted.

Moscow's peace initiative also involved Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, Jordan's King Abdullah II and Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed visiting Moscow last week. Sisi, according to the media outlet, could be interested in what Russia has to offer with respect to Syria. Cairo and Damascus are said to be getting closer to each other and could soon restore diplomatic relations.

But the key visit of an Arab leader to Russia has yet to take place. King Salman is expected to meet with President Putin in the near future. Both leaders will likely discuss the deal on the Iranian nuclear program and the fate of Assad.

"Russia's undivided loyalty to its ally in the Middle East has impressed Arab leaders and they are increasingly looking to Moscow in the hopes of receiving Russia's support, as well as signing new arms deals and economic agreements," the media outlet stated. "President Putin has shown that staying true to ones commitments pays off."

Russia to Deploy Naval Fighter, Surface to Air-Missile Regiments in Arctic

MILITARY & INTELLIGENCE

The command of the Russian armed forces in the Arctic will be enhanced by naval fighter and surface to air-missile regiments before the end of 2015, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Monday.

MOSCOW (Sputnik) — Shoigu said that the necessity to enhance Russia's military presence in the Arctic arose due to the development of the Northern Sea Route and the need to protect national interests in the region.

Read more at:

<http://sputniknews.com/military/20150831/1026402551.html#ixzz3kPkyAN00>

Ukraine's Economic Troubles Could Trigger Migrant Apocalypse in Europe
Forget Syria, Europe's next massive wave of refugees could come from Ukraine.

Ukraine is plagued by a collapsing economy and torn apart by a months-long civil war that has left some 2 million people displaced. These are the ingredients of what could turn into a demographic and humanitarian disaster: like other countries facing similar challenges, Ukraine could see a massive outflow of its citizens.

Those who settled in Western Ukraine might well flee to Europe, which is increasingly overburdened with migrants from the Middle East and Africa, Die Welt asserted. The latest developments show that the continent is ill-prepared to deal with an ever-increasing number of refugees and it might be unaware that the new wave could come from a neighboring country.

Read more at:

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150831/1026379519/russia-ukraine-refugees-economy-conflict-europe.html#ixzz3kRv28MXL>

Syrian Refugee Crisis: We Left One War For Another
Guardian Investigations

Syria: a crisis at Fortress Europe's gates. Since the war began in Syria, thousands of refugees have made the precarious journey to Europe, through Turkey, in search of safety.

Watch this video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWWJfBt4szg>

See also Europe Or Die (Full Documentary) at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tj3AkgVqiF4>

Nicola Sturgeon has told how she was reduced to tears by photos of a dead Syrian boy washed up on a Turkish beach.



This is a picture being shown in much of the press throughout Europe on 3rd September 2015 that is becoming a defining moment in the Migrant Crisis in the EU.

Paris Obligated to Negotiate Mistral Resale With Moscow

In early August, Paris terminated the contract and suspended the delivery of two ships to Russia due to Moscow's alleged involvement in the Ukrainian conflict. Brazil, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Canada, UAE

and South Africa were afterwards mentioned among other possible buyers.

Last week, a senior official of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation told RIA Novosti that Moscow has not yet given permission to resell the ships to third countries. In order to get this permission, France has to give Russia information about potential buyers of ships, the official stressed.

Read more at:

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150831/1026403112/paris-mistral-resale-moscow.html#ixzz3kPq2pWJL>

The Kurdish and Yazidi women taking up arms against IS
High up in the mountains on the Iran-Iraq-Turkey border, a group of Kurdish and Yazidi women are united in their battle against so-called Islamic State.

Determined to fight back against their persecutors, they have joined a PKK training camp for women fighters.

You can watch this video report from the BBC web site at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-33997748?SThisFB>

Chiara Vigo: The last woman who makes sea silk

Silk is usually made from the cocoons spun by silkworms - but there is another, much rarer, cloth known as sea silk or byssus, which comes from a clam. Chiara Vigo is thought to be the only woman left who can harvest it, spin it and make it shine like gold.

Some believe it was the cloth God told Moses to lay on the first altar. It was the finest fabric known to ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome, and one of its remarkable properties is the way it shines when exposed to the sun, once it has been treated with lemon juice and spices.

Read more about this at <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-33691781>

A tourist in the land of the ayatollahs

From ayatollahs railing against the Great Satan (aka the United States) to whip-wielding policemen on motorbikes, Iran hasn't presented the most inviting face to the outside world over the last few decades. But a few days ago the UK Foreign Office stopped telling travellers to avoid non-essential trips. So what's it like for a visiting foreigner? Amy Guttman shares her experiences.

I'm fairly fearless in far-flung places, but arriving in Tehran made me nervous. As a single, white female, I stuck out. I scanned the hall for my guide Amin, and didn't relax until I spotted his placard with my name on it.

British, American and Canadian tourists must be accompanied at all times by a guide. This meant Amin, short in stature, but long in kindness, would spend the next eight days with me - many of them stretching from dawn until late at night. Amin, with his warm smile, sharp sense of humour, and gentle nature became like a brother to me. He also became my accountant. Hotels, food and souvenirs are roughly on a par with American prices, but for an outsider working this out can be tricky - Iran uses the rial, but prices are often in toman, which equal 10 rials... Let's just say there are several zeros to contend with, and long-division skills are a necessity.

Hotels in Iran are like a time warp, circa 1979. That's when the Islamic Revolution forced the termination of all foreign hotel contracts. Nowadays, they're referred to by their former names, like "the old Sheraton". But despite the lack of modern amenities and contemporary decor, the hotels I experienced were very clean, and functional.

Breakfast is tea, dates, and watermelon, served with thick, sesame-topped flatbread and honey or quince jam, and sometimes whipped cream. Yes, whipped cream!

The only thing missing was coffee - good coffee. A government backlash against Western habits, such as socialising in coffee shops, has shuttered many of Tehran's cafes. A few good coffee shops

near the university and north Tehran remain, but even the strongest cup doesn't taste like a proper Americano. On the other hand, coffee drinking - and cupcakes in typical American flavours such as red velvet - are gaining in popularity. A Persian Starbucks would have bright prospects.

You can read the rest of this article at: <http://tinyurl.com/nnm4azt>

Most graduates 'in non-graduate jobs', says CIPD

In a previous issue I ran an article on the value of apprenticeships over university degrees. I came across this report on the BBC web site which tends to confirm this view.

The majority of UK university graduates are working in jobs that do not require a degree, with over-qualification at "saturation point", a report claims.

Overall, 58.8% of graduates are in jobs deemed to be non-graduate roles, according to the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

It said the number of graduates had now "significantly outstripped" the creation of high-skilled jobs.

The CIPD said the report's findings should be a "wake-up call".

"The assumption that we will transition to a more productive, higher-value, higher-skilled economy just by increasing the conveyor belt of graduates is proven to be flawed," said Peter Cheese, chief executive of the CIPD, the professional body for human resources managers.

'Simply wasted'

The report found the issue was leading to "negative consequences" including employers requesting degrees for traditionally non-graduate roles despite no change to the skills needed for the role.

As a result, it found graduates were now replacing non-graduates in roles and taking jobs where the demand for graduate skills was either non-existent or falling.

The trend was particularly prominent in construction and manufacturing sectors where apprenticeships have previously been traditional routes into the industry, the report found.

Mr Cheese said that in many cases the "skills premium" graduates had "if it exists at all" was being "simply wasted".

The CIPD is calling for a "national debate" over how to generate more high-skilled jobs.

It said government and organisations both needed to act to help graduates make better use of their skills, but said the report also highlighted that for young people choosing an apprenticeship instead of university could be a "much better choice"

Finland considers basic income to reform welfare system

Over the years I've often considered this to be a way to help people while reducing the expensive social security system we have. And so when I saw this article on the BBC web site I thought I'd copy it here for you to think about...

The Finnish government is considering a pilot project that would see the state pay people a basic income regardless of whether they work.

The details of how much the basic income might be and who would be eligible for it are yet to be announced, but already there is widespread interest in how it might work.

Prime Minister Juha Sipila has praised the idea. "For me, a basic income means simplifying the social security system," he said.

The scheme is of particular interest to people without jobs. In Finland, they now number 280,000 - 10% of the workforce.

With unemployment an increasing concern, four out of five Finns now are in favour of a basic income.

Basic income

- Paid without any need for work
- Paid irrespective of any income from other sources
- Additional income subject to income tax
- Finland to initiate pilot project
- Dutch city of Utrecht to experiment with basic income this autumn
- UK Green Party advocated similar "Citizen's Income" at 2015 election

"A basic income? Yes, I'd gladly have €1,000 (£700, \$1,100) a month," says one man at a centre for the unemployed in Pori, near Finland's west coast. But the amount is unlikely to be anywhere near that high.

He is among the jobless who have come to an old, wooden building in city, where they can get cheap food, shop at a second-hand market, and take part in a variety of activities on offer.

"It's a nice place to socialise," says another man sitting on a bench outside, enjoying the summer sun. People here have been out of work for a long time.

"A basic income would encourage people to take a temporary job," says Paivi Hietikko, who helps out at the centre. Although she has no regular income at the moment, she does receive a payment for her work here.

"Having a basic income would mean the bureaucracy I've encountered at the employment agency would decrease."

In Finland, taking on work can cost you money if you are unemployed.

A paid temporary job means lower welfare benefits.

And if that job comes from a low-wage sector, you lose out because there is a delay before the authorities allow your benefits to be restored once you have left the job.

Fundamental change

Many Finns nowadays have what are described as atypical working lives, in that few spend their entire lives in the same occupation and with the same employer.

This fundamental change has prompted a need for reforms to the social security system.

Supporters of the basic income believe it could offer an alternative to Finland's complex and costly benefit models.

Paivi Hietikko certainly sees its potential advantages - but she also wonders whether it would deter people from looking for work.

The young especially might lose the motivation to look for a job, if it was, say, €700 a month. That would be too much," she says.

This has become one of the main concerns surrounding the idea.

But experts say it is too early to tell what the outcome would be.

"What would be the impact of a basic income to employment in Finland - positive or negative? We can't really foresee how people would behave with a basic income," says Ohto Kanninen, from the Tank research centre.

So the pilot project aims to get some answers.

Equality obstacle

The prime minister has expressed support for a limited, geographical experiment. Participants would be selected from a variety of residential areas.

Mr Kanninen proposes testing the idea by paying 8,000 people from low income groups four different monthly amounts, from €280 to €500.

"If the impact on employment during the experiment was catastrophic, basic income would of course not be implemented on a large scale," he says.

One obstacle to staging a pilot project is Finland's constitution, which states that every citizen must be equal.

Even a small-scale experiment would put its participants in an unequal position.

However, Finns may be prepared to waive that principle of equality, if an experiment produces valuable information for society.

Yemen crisis: How bad is the humanitarian situation?

The country is experiencing 'a humanitarian catastrophe'

That was the frank assessment of the UN's Humanitarian Co-ordinator, Johannes Van Der Klaauw, on 19 August.

Almost 4,500 people have been killed and a further 23,000 have been wounded since the escalation in March of the conflict between forces loyal to the exiled President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi and those allied to the Houthi rebel movement.

The destruction of infrastructure and restrictions on imports imposed by a Saudi-led coalition carrying out air strikes against the rebels have led to 21 million people being deprived of life-sustaining commodities and basic services.

Read more about this at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-34011187>

Slower melting ice cream developed by scientists

Scottish scientists believe they have found the secret to making an ice cream that does not melt so quickly on hot summer days.

Researchers at the universities of Dundee and Edinburgh have found a naturally occurring protein that makes the ice cream mixture more stable meaning it melts more slowly and is smoother in texture.

Prof Cait MacPhee, from the University of Edinburgh, says the new ingredient will mean ice cream will "melt eventually, but hopefully by keeping it stable for longer, it will stop the drips".

Perhaps our ice cream makers in Canada can get involved with this project?

Watch a video about this at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-34106748>

Canadian Update

NATO

On 31st July 2015 Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the extension of Operation REASSURANCE, Canada's contribution in support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Assurance Measures in Central and Eastern Europe, until June 2016. Canada's continued support of NATO's efforts to promote security and stability in Central and Eastern Europe demonstrates the

Government's steadfast commitment to our Allies in the region.

It is also part of Canada's broader response to the Putin regime's aggression in Ukraine. Canada's position on Ukraine has been clear: we recognize the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and will never recognize the illegal Russian occupation of Crimea or any region of that country.

Operation REASSURANCE refers to the military activities undertaken by the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) to support NATO Assurance Measures through the provision of military capabilities for training, exercises, demonstrations and assigned NATO tasks.

Quick Facts

On April 17, 2014, Prime Minister Harper offered CAF assets to NATO as part of allied assurance measures to promote security in Central and Eastern Europe.

Since May 2014, Canada has maintained a regional presence of approximately 200 Canadian Army soldiers based in Poland. In total, more than 450 soldiers have deployed to take part in a variety of training exercises alongside NATO Allies and partners.

Additionally, Canada has maintained a maritime presence in the region with a rotational deployment of Her Majesty's Canadian Ships Regina, Toronto, Fredericton and now Winnipeg, including embarked CH-124 Sea King helicopters and their crews as part of NATO Standing Maritime Forces. During Operation REASSURANCE, the ships conducted maritime security operations and joint NATO training exercises in the region.

From May to August 2014, Canada contributed approximately 20 CAF staff officers to NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe to assist with the planning of a number of defensive measures on land, sea and air.

From May to December 2014, in support of NATO Assurance Measures, the CAF deployed up to six Royal Canadian Air Force CF-18 Hornet fighter aircraft and approximately 200 airmen and airwomen as part of an Air Task Force. The Air Task Force conducted training with NATO allies in Romania and participated in the NATO Baltic Air Policing mission based in Lithuania.

The 2015 Canadian federal election (Formally the 42nd Canadian general election) will be held on October 19, 2015 to elect members to the House of Commons of the 42nd Parliament of Canada.

The main parties contesting the election are the incumbent Conservative party, the Official Opposition, the NDP, and the Liberal party.

The election takes place with the background of a possible recession in Canada given that 20% of Canadian income comes from oil. The Loonie (the Canadian dollar) has also dropped some 20% in value against the US dollar which should increase exports but there is little sign of this happening at time of writing which is somewhat puzzling.

Canadian Armed Forces Day
June 7, 2015

Message from the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, on the Occasion of the Canadian Armed Forces Day

OTTAWA—From the outset of my mandate, I have been deeply honoured to serve as commander-in-chief of Canada. I am delighted to be able to celebrate Canadian Armed Forces Day today.

Whether here at home or abroad, on humanitarian or relief missions, in times of war or times of peace, the members of the Canadian Armed Forces stand ready to answer the call to service. Every day, they resolutely defend our freedom, democracy and the respect for human rights, principles that we hold so dear.

Whenever I have met with them, the extent of their commitment and the depth of sacrifice they have made have been readily apparent. I have also met with many of their families, who are themselves extraordinarily resilient and courageous. It is no wonder that the valour, sense of duty and professionalism of the members of our military family are such an inspiration and source of pride for Canadians.

On Canadian Armed Forces Day, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our women and men in uniform for their unwavering dedication to our country.

David Johnston

Editors Note: I came across a series called "For King and Country" which documents Canadians who died around the world in WWII. You can view this series at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llaUzUzxEs4&list=PL8436730334633628>

Presentation of Military and Bravery Decorations

Friday, June 26, 2015, at 10:30 a.m.

On this occasion, the Governor General presented 5 Meritorious Service Crosses (Military Division) and 26 Meritorious Service Medals (Military Division) to individuals whose specific achievements have brought honour to the CAF and to Canada. He also presented 8 Medals of Bravery to CAF members who have performed acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances.

You can get a list of recipients at

<http://www.gg.ca/document.aspx?id=16124&lan=eng>

Social Impact Investment

"The world is on the brink of a revolution in how we solve society's toughest problems. The force driving this revolution is "impact investing", which harnesses entrepreneurship, innovation and capital to power social progress. This report, Impact Investing: The Invisible Heart of Markets – Harnessing the power of entrepreneurship, innovation and capital for public good, examines what is needed to catalyse the growth of a global market for impact investment. It makes recommendations that can be implemented across Taskforce countries and beyond to deliver better social outcomes and improve millions of lives across the world.

The crash of 2008 highlighted the need for a renewed effort to ensure that finance helps build a healthy society rather than endanger it. This requires a paradigm shift in capital market thinking, from two-dimensions to three. By bringing a third dimension, impact, to the traditional capital market priorities of risk and return, impact investing has the potential to transform our ability to build a better society for all."

It is urgent that governments throughout the world commit themselves to developing an international framework capable of promoting a market of high impact investments and thus to combating an economy which excludes and discards.

Pope Francis

I want to use our G8 presidency to push this agenda forward. We will work with other G8 nations to grow the social investment market and increase investment, allowing the best social innovations to spread and help tackle our shared social and economic challenges.

David Cameron Prime Minister, UK at the World Economic Forum, Davos 2013

Our Governor General will talk about how impact investment can change our world for the better. He will address the growing momentum behind social finance in Canada right now and how our nation can be a global leader. He will also talk about the important role foundations can play in the impact investment space. Following his address, His Excellency will participate in a question period with the audience.

Learn more at <http://www.socialimpactinvestment.org/>

Constable Daniel Woodall

Thousands gather to celebrate life of Constable Daniel Woodall in regimental funeral.

More than a week after Edmonton Police Service officer, Constable Daniel Woodall, was killed in the line of duty – thousands of officers from around the world gathered in Edmonton to honour the fallen officer.

You can learn more about him and watch some videos at:

http://www.electriccanadian.com/makers/woodall_daniel.htm

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

For over a century, the central goals of Canada's Aboriginal policy were to eliminate Aboriginal governments; ignore Aboriginal rights; terminate the Treaties; and, through a process of assimilation, cause Aboriginal peoples to cease to exist as distinct legal, social, cultural, religious, and racial entities in Canada. The establishment and operation of residential schools were a central element of this policy, which can best be described as "cultural genocide."

Physical genocide is the mass killing of the members of a targeted group, and biological genocide is the destruction of the group's reproductive capacity. Cultural genocide is the destruction of those structures and practices that allow the group to continue as a group. States that engage in cultural genocide set out to destroy the political and social institutions of the targeted group. Land is seized, and populations are forcibly transferred and their movement is restricted. Languages are banned. Spiritual leaders are persecuted, spiritual practices are forbidden, and objects of spiritual value are confiscated and destroyed. And, most significantly to the issue at hand, families are disrupted to prevent the transmission of cultural values and identity from one generation to the next.

In its dealing with Aboriginal people, Canada did all these things.

For more information visit <http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/truth.htm>

I might add a similar experiment was carried out by the Dutch in Greenland. To learn about this visit <http://tinyurl.com/nhqz7c>

The Magna Carta turns 800 years old on Monday. The trip from the U.K. to Ottawa-Gatineau is part of the anniversary celebrations.

"It's taken four years of intense negotiations. It's not easy to move a document like this. But once we were in negotiations, we felt it was something we wanted to do to celebrate the anniversary, and particularly seeing that the Queen wanted the Commonwealth included, this was an opportunity to do that," said Rev. Rosalind Brown, the Durham Cathedral's librarian.

"To understand how blessed we are to live here and now, you have to understand what the foundations of this country are, and this document was really the blueprint of many of the rights and freedoms that we enjoy here today," said Suzy Rodness, who, along with her husband, worked for several years to bring the Magna Carta to Ottawa-Gatineau.

She and Len Rodness are co-chairs of Magna Carta Canada, a charitable foundation that raised funds and established committees to bring the document to Canada.

The Magna Carta, also known as the Great Charter of the Liberties, was created in 1215 by England's barons to curb the arbitrary powers of King John I, according to Magna Carta Canada's website.

"It expresses four key principles: that no one is above the law, not even the monarch; that no one can be detained without cause or evidence; that everyone has a right to trial by jury; and that a widow cannot be forced to marry and give up her property — a major first step in women's rights," the website reads.

Also on display at the museum will be the Charter of the Forest, which was first issued in 1217 and complements the Magna Carta in more specific detail.

"It re-established the right of free men to hunt and farm in the king's royal forest. It also substantially reduced the area of the royal forest, which had accounted for roughly a third of England, and banned severe punishments for forest offences such as hunting protected deer," the website reads.

The Magna Carta will also travel to Winnipeg, Toronto and Edmonton until late December.

Learn more at <http://www.magnacartacanada.ca/>

Frontier College

Is Canada's original literacy organization. Founded in 1899, this charitable organization recruits and trains volunteers to deliver literacy programs to children, youth and adults in communities across the country. Literacy is an essential skill in today's world; at Frontier College, we believe it's a fundamental right. We work with volunteers and community partners to give people the skills and confidence they need to reach their potential and increase their opportunities.

You can learn more about them at <http://www.frontiercollege.ca/index.html>

Creation of the Polar Medal

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, has announced that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has approved the creation of the Polar Medal. This new medal will celebrate Canada's Northern heritage and give recognition to persons who render extraordinary services in the polar regions and Canada's North.

"Canada is a northern nation, and the North is integral to our identity and our sovereignty," said the Governor General. "The creation of the Polar Medal emphasizes the importance that our country places on strengthening our understanding of and connection to the North. Recognizing the outstanding contributions made by those working and living there, which is not without challenges and risks, will make our Canadian Honours System more comprehensive and better able to celebrate the full breadth of Canadian achievement."

As an official honour created by the Crown, the Polar Medal will be part of the Canadian Honours System. The program will incorporate and replace the Governor General's Northern Medal.

The new medal will elevate the way we recognize individuals who contribute to Northern communities and to our understanding of Northern Canada and its people. It will also highlight their achievements in polar exploration and scientific discoveries. The Governor General will preside over an inaugural presentation ceremony at a later date.

For more information, visit <http://www.gg.ca/honours>

PM announces conclusion of Free Trade Agreement with Ukraine

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today announced that Canada and Ukraine have successfully concluded negotiations toward the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA). The bilateral free trade agreement will boost commercial ties between the two countries, creating jobs and opportunities for Canadians across Canada. The announcement was made just a few weeks after the Prime Minister's visit to Ukraine in early June, his third to the country since March 2014.

The CUFTA will provide improved market access for Canadian exports to the Ukrainian market, help address non-tariff barriers and facilitate closer economic relations. In addition, the CUFTA will provide Ukrainian exports with improved access to the Canadian market, which is consistent with the Government's unwavering commitment to support Ukraine's democratic transition and economic reforms.

Once the Agreement enters into force, Canada and Ukraine will immediately eliminate duties on 99.9 per cent and 86 per cent of respective current imports, thereby benefiting both Canadian and Ukrainian exporters and consumers. The Agreement will result in the elimination of all Ukrainian tariffs on industrial goods, forestry and wood products, fish and seafood products, as well as the elimination of the vast majority of Ukraine's agricultural tariffs. Canadian agriculture exporters will benefit from duty-free access for beef, pulses, grains, canola oil, processed foods and animal feed. Canadian pork

producers will benefit from improved access to Ukraine's market via a large tariff rate quota.

Prime Minister Harper highlighted the inclusion of Ukraine as a priority emerging market under Canada's Global Markets Action Plan and as one of Canada's development countries of focus. He also publicly released Canada's market access plan for Ukraine – another tool the Government of Canada is providing to help Canadian companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, identify new opportunities to do business in Ukraine.

The Agreement is informed by public consultations, and reflects the views and priorities of Canadian businesses, industry associations, provinces and territories, and other stakeholders.

Canada's Global Markets Action Plan

Canada's economic prosperity depends on international trade and investment. The Global Markets Action Plan will ensure that all the diplomatic assets of the Government of Canada are harnessed to support the pursuit of commercial success by Canadian companies and investors in key foreign markets, to generate new jobs and new opportunities for workers and families here at home.

You can learn more about this plan at:

<http://www.international.gc.ca/global-markets-marches-mondiaux/index.aspx?lang=eng>

Tories' new foreign-affairs vision shifts focus to economic diplomacy

Stephen Harper's Conservative government will make "economic diplomacy" in service of private industry the centrepiece of this country's foreign policy, marking a historic shift in Canada's approach to the world.

In a major report to be released Wednesday, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is instructed to "entrench the concept of 'economic diplomacy' as the driving force behind the Government of Canada's activities through its international diplomatic network.

Read more about this at:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/tories-new-foreign-affairs-vision-shifts-focus-to-economic-diplomacy/article15624653/>

Premiers reach aspirational deal on national energy strategy

Canada's premiers have reached a deal on the long-awaited Canadian Energy Strategy that officials describe as aspirational. It sets no Canada-wide hard targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions but provides a roadmap for expansion of pipelines and the country's energy industry.

Read more at:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/premiers-making-progress-on-national-energy-strategy-deal-could-be-signed-today/article25545448/>

Hadfield's gift to Canada

Sir William Upper sent out an email telling us...

Chris Hadfield, you've done it again.....

The retired astronaut created a music video about our country that's sweeter than a double-double from Timmie's. Titled "In Canada," the song was a collaborative effort between Hadfield and his brother Dave in a mission to create "the most Canadian music video ever."

And you know what? They succeeded.

Hadfield uploaded the "polite song" to YouTube on Tuesday, saying it came from "two brothers who are just hoping your day is going okay." And thanks to this song, it'll be a lot better than just "okay." The rapid montage of Canadian culture reminds us of everything we love about this great country.

Because at the end of the day, we're just a bunch of exceedingly polite, Timbit-eating winter-lovers.

And we wouldn't have it any other way.

Check out the video at <https://youtu.be/zuVsHt3rBnc>

Free Trade Agreement with Israel

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today announced that negotiations toward an expanded and modernized Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA) have concluded.

The modernized CIFTA will notably provide expanded market access opportunities for agricultural, fish and seafood products through the reduction or elimination of Israeli tariffs on a large number of products, and duty-free access under tariff rate quotas for certain products.

Four existing areas of the current CIFTA have been modernized, namely market access for goods, rules of origin, institutional provisions, and dispute settlement. In addition, seven new chapters have been included in the areas of trade facilitation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, intellectual property, electronic commerce, labour, and environment.

This robust CIFTA will support Canadian businesses and investors, deepen trade and investment linkages, and further strengthen Canada's bilateral relationship with Israel.

A modernized CIFTA will facilitate expanded bilateral commercial flows by reducing tariffs and other barriers, enhancing cooperation and increasing transparency in regulatory matters. A modernized agreement also stands to reduce transaction costs for businesses and create new opportunities for Canadian agriculture, agri-food, fish and seafood companies in the Israeli market.

Brook Henderson

Canadian teenager Brooke Henderson earned her first LPGA Tour victory on Sunday and subsequently made a 15-spot climb to 17th in the new Women's World Golf Rankings released Monday.

After winning the Portland Classic by eight strokes to become the third-youngest champion in LPGA history at 17 years, 11 months, 6 days, Henderson has made more than \$660,000 US in 10 events this season and now ranks ahead of such luminaries as Michelle Wie, Karrie Webb and Morgan Pressel.

So much success, and yet Henderson doesn't even possess a tour card. Last year, the LPGA denied her an age petition to play in Q-school, so she has had to rely on sponsor exemptions and Monday qualifying to compete in tournaments.

But after Sunday's eight-stroke victory, the first by a Canadian on the LPGA Tour since Lorie Kane at the 2001 Takefuji Classic, Henderson is now assured of finishing among the top 40 in earnings, meaning she will get her card for next season, by which time she'll be 18 and eligible for one.

Of course I did highlight her amazing game in last quarters newsletter so good to see her going from strength to strength. It is also probable that she will represent Canada in next years Olympics.



Canadian Dollar Hits 11-Year-Low Against U.S. Dollar Greenback last hit this level in August 2004

The Canadian dollar sank against the U.S. dollar early Monday, hitting a new 11-year low as investors capitulated amid a broad selloff in global markets.

The U.S. dollar was recently at C\$1.3210 from C\$1.3187 late Friday, according to data provider CQG.

The greenback earlier reached as high as C\$1.3290, a level it hasn't reached since August 2004.

"There's certainly some panic out there," said Karl Schamotta, director of FX Strategy at Cambridge Global Payments.

Along with other commodity-linked currencies, the Canadian dollar was hit hard early Monday by plummeting oil prices. Crude prices fell to new multiyear lows amid lingering concerns about global economic growth, with the Nymex October contract down 4% to about \$38.84.

Interest rate expectations have diminished substantially across all major currencies, including the U.S. with economists now seen pushing back their forecasts for the next Federal Reserve rate increase to December.

"The reality is that we are looking at a global economy suffering widespread disinflationary conditions," Mr. Schamotta said.

The Canadian dollar, which is closely correlated to oil prices, reacted swiftly, as investors see weaker oil prices weighing heavily on the Bank of Canada's next monetary policy move.

"The rout in global equity markets is being magnified in Canada through the energy complex, and the combination of deteriorating financial conditions and weaker oil prices presents serious hurdles beyond the very near-term economic outlook," said Mark Chandler, head of Canadian fixed income and currency strategy at RBC Capital Markets.

The market is now pricing in about a 75% change of another 25-basis-point rate cut over the next 12 months, Mr. Chandler said.

With the Canadian dollar now hitting new lows, currency analysts expect the next major level for the U.S. dollar to climb to is around C\$1.3380, although C\$1.35 is a key figure that is within reach, Mr. Schamotta noted.

The Trans Canada Trail

Is one of the world's longest networks of trails, developed and promoted by a non-profit registered charity.

When completed, the Trail will stretch nearly 24,000 kilometres from the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic oceans, linking Canadians in close to 1,000 communities.

Today, over 18,000 kilometres of Trail have been developed. Millions of Canadians and international visitors are using the Trail to hike, cycle, ski, horseback ride, canoe and snowmobile. The Trans Canada Trail offers countless opportunities to explore Canada's diverse landscapes and rich history.

Watch a video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=85&v=oytnL455XcU>

Learn more at <http://tctrail.ca/>

Accessible Media Inc. (AMI)

Accessible Media Inc. (AMI) is a not-for-profit multimedia organization serving more than five million Canadians who are blind, partially sighted, deaf, hard of hearing, mobility or print restricted. Operating three broadcast services, AMI-tv and AMI-audio in English and AMI-télé in French, AMI's mission is to make accessible media for all Canadians.

In pursuit of that mission, we believe that for all impacted and concerned Canadians, AMI can be a new model media organization that creates, advocates, collaborates and enables accessibility to all media.

AMI-audio: Connecting you to what matters

AMI-audio is an accessible television channel and online service offering a variety of compelling stories and engaging original content to Canadians who are blind, partially sighted or otherwise print restricted. Daily, a team of professional narrators present feature articles from top Canadian and international magazines and hourly information updates. AMI-audio also produces a variety of original

programs covering historical and current events, technology, entertainment and more. AMI-audio original content is also available through satellite radio and as podcasts.

AMI-tv: Television that includes everyone

AMI-tv is a national English language, open described video, closed captioned, basic digital TV specialty service. Licensed by the CRTC, AMI-tv is part of the basic digital package of TV programming offered by all cable systems and satellite direct-to-home services. AMI-tv broadcasts programs from conventional and specialty TV services and foreign-rights holders in an open described, closed captioned format for people who are blind, low vision, deaf or hard of hearing - a world first!

About AMI-télé

In December 2014, AMI launched its third broadcast service, AMI-télé, to serve francophone Canadians who are blind, partially sighted, deaf or hard of hearing. AMI-télé is the first French language television station to broadcast all content with open described video and closed captioning, and is available with a basic digital package.

Learn more about them and watch or listen to their programs at <http://www.ami.ca>

Recession confirmed as Canada's GDP shrank in 2nd quarter

Canada's economy expanded in June but declined by 0.1 per cent for the second quarter as a whole, meeting the bar of what is legally defined as a recession.

The economy expanded by 0.5 per cent in June, Statistics Canada said.

But that slight monthly uptick wasn't enough to offset the contraction in the previous two months, which means for the second quarter as a whole, the economy shrank.

The service sector expanded by 0.6 per cent between April and June, which helped offset a decline in goods-producing industries like oil and gas, and manufacturing.

While the resource sector continued its slide, shrinking by 4.5 per cent in the quarter, other industries expanded, including the public sector, wholesale trade and real estate agents, where economic activity expanded by a whopping 9.9 per cent.

Households also spent more during the quarter. Consumption increased 0.6 per cent in the second quarter, following a 0.1 gain in the first quarter.

Add it all up and Tuesday's data suggests "there was a recession," TD Bank economist Randall Bartlett said. "In our view, it was a very very mild one in the first half of 2015, but that's behind us now and all indications point to a positive growing economy for the rest of the year."

Canadian History

William Osler, The Man

By Harvey Cushing

WHATEVER may be said of Sir William Osler in days to come, of his high position in medicine, of his gifts and versatility, to his contemporaries, love of his fellow-man, utter unselfishness, and an extraordinary capacity for friendship will always remain the characteristics which overshadow all else. Few so eminent and so industrious come in return to be so widely beloved for their own sake. Most of us do well with what Stevenson advises—a few friends and those without capitulation—but Osler had the God-given quality not only of being a friend with all, high or low, child or grown-up, professor or pupil, don or scholar, but what is more, of holding such friendships with an unforgetting tenacity—a scribbled line of remembrance with a playful twist to it, a note of congratulation to some delighted youngster on his first publication, the gift of an unexpected book, an unsolicited donation for some worthy cause (and giving promptly he gave doubly), a telegram to bring cheer or consolation, an article to help a struggling journal to get a footing, a cable such as his last on the day of his operation to his old Hopkins friends, which was given by them to the press for the benefit of countless others

who shared their own anxiety—all this was characteristic of the man, whose first thoughts were invariably for others.

You can read more about this Canadian at:

http://www.electriccanadian.com/makers/osler_william.htm

Dedication and Unveiling of the LCol John McCrae Statue

Along with Cam Guthrie, Mayor of Guelph, His Excellency dedicated and unveiled the LCol John McCrae Statue to honour the 100th anniversary of the writing of “In Flanders Fields”.

May 3, 2015, marked the centennial anniversary of the poem, “In Flanders Fields”, written by LCol John McCrae. McCrae was born in Guelph in 1872 and his birthplace home stands today as a museum. To honour this man and his famous poem, The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery commissioned famous sculptor Ruth Abernethy to create a statue depicting John McCrae at the historic moment of the poem’s completion.



In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

National Acadian Day
August 15, 2015

Message from the Governor General of Canada on the Occasion of National Acadian Day

OTTAWA—I am delighted to mark National Acadian Day. I believe that different cultures, languages and traditions enrich our nation tremendously.

For hundreds of years, Canada has benefited from the unique perspective and significant contribution of the Acadian people. Their fascinating and moving history includes their original migration from France, their deportation in 1755 and their subsequent return to the Atlantic region after 1763, followed by the Acadian renaissance. Their resilience is a source of inspiration, and today, Acadians continue to demonstrate a remarkable sense of identity.

On this special day, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the Acadian community. Let us take this opportunity to celebrate this vibrant culture!

David Johnston

I confess I didn't know we had an Acadian Day but now having found out I might point to a resource where you can learn more about the history of the Acadians.

Acadia - Missing Links of a Lost Chapter in American History

By Edouard Richard (1895) in 2 volumes

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/acadia/missing/index.htm>

Chinese Canadian History

From the time Chinese first arrived in British Columbia in 1858 until 1874, they were like any other migrants: they occupied lower paid jobs. While people of Caucasian descent were paid \$2 a day, the Chinese accepted \$1.35 a day for the same work.

However, Chinese were also treated different than any other immigrants in two important ways: they were forbidden to vote until after WWII, and they were subjected to a head tax.

The Chinese were always considered “heathens” and by 1875 the government declared, “Chinese of the Province of British Columbia may not make application to have their names inserted in any list of voters and are disqualified from voting at any elections.”

A decade later, in 1885 the Chinese became prey to a head tax. The head tax was designed to discourage Chinese from entering Canada. The tax started at \$50, and less than four decades later (1903) had risen to \$500 per person, a fortune at that time.

When World War I was declared in 1914, approximately 200 Chinese volunteered for the Canadian Army. Marjorie Wong in her book, *The Dragon and the Maple Leaf*, listed some of the men from British Columbia, including two brothers from Shuswap area: Wee Hong Louie and Wee Tan Louie. The widow of Wee Tan donated his helmet to the Chinese Canadian Military Museum which is on display.

Following the end of the first war, returning Chinese veterans continued to face racial intolerance as well as unemployment.

The next indignity was the passage of the 1923 Immigration Act, also known as the Chinese Exclusion Act. It was the only legislation written for a specific ethnic group. It effectively barred Chinese from Canada.

At the start of the World War II, a few Chinese volunteered for the Canadian Army. They were accepted and when the war moved to Hong Kong, more Chinese volunteered.

However, the air force and navy at first did not accept anyone of Chinese descent due to their internal policy. But that policy was eventually overturned as the war moved to the Pacific Theatre and Chinese were considered useful.

By that time, conscription was a big topic in Chinatown. Heated debates took place in church halls between various groups and organizations. “Should Chinese men and women volunteer or wait until the government called their names?”

Those who wanted to volunteer argued that if Chinese wanted to be considered first class citizens, they needed to demonstrate their commitment to Canada.

Those who were opposed volunteering replied, "Look at what the government has done to us. Why should we fight for a country that doesn't want us?"

In what amounted to a vote, the patriotic Chinese won the day.

They volunteered in all three branches of the armed forces and some were even seconded to the British forces. They fought on land, sea and air and some made the supreme sacrifice.

At the end of the war, in 1947, the infamous Chinese Exclusion Act was finally repealed. In the same year, the first Canadian citizenship ceremony for Chinese was held at the Commodore Cabaret in Vancouver with some 400 in attendance. Chinese were finally allowed to vote in the provincial election of 1949, followed by federal election the same year.

The return of the franchise also meant the professionally trained could take their place alongside their Caucasian colleagues. Chinese could now be recognized as doctors, lawyers and engineers. This meant these men and women could now provide a stable future for their children and in turn, change the economic landscape in the Chinese Canadian community forever.

Now in the second decade of the new century, today's Canadian Forces count among its members various ethnic group — including Chinese in the campaign in Afghanistan – who are making their contribution to Canada.

Learn more about the Chinese in Canada at:
<http://www.ccmms.ca/chinese-canadian-history/>

Canon Andrew White

JULY 3, 2015

Dear Friends,

This week we had a great time of celebration as we held graduation ceremonies for our school here in Amman. The people we are supporting were there together with our team here in Jordan, and we were all able to have joy in this moment. The children here have worked hard to graduate, and our teachers here in Jordan have worked hard as well. We honored both the children and the teachers with this ceremony, and we are so thankful to all of them.

I was also able to give out gifts to the children as they came through the line to receive their certificates. We gave them crosses, bracelets, and sweets! They were so happy to receive our gifts, and it is truly a gift from G-d that we are able to minister to them in this way. We are sharing the love of Jesus with them.

We are working now on trying to expand our education project in Jordan to include two more schools, and we are hoping to partner with the Greek Orthodox School system as we do this. If we are able to move forward with this partnership, it would allow us to continue doing the work G-d has given us to do, but on a much larger scale!

We are also continuing to maintain our medical clinic here in Jordan, which allows us to provide much needed services to our people. We are continuing to expand the range of services we provide, and we are now providing more pharmaceutical care for our people through our clinic. Right now what we need in our clinic is a new dental chair!

We will soon be going back to England for some important meetings, including one with our Advisory Board and one with the University Jewish Chaplaincy. Both of these meetings will be in London, and as usual they will be part of a very busy schedule. After a few more weeks we will be heading to

America, where we will be speaking at some churches and also doing some media events, one of which will be an interview with Judge Jeanine of Fox News. As usual, life is very busy and involves a lot of travel!

We could not have done everything that we are doing without your help. It is through your financial aid and support in prayer that we are able to persist in the ministry that G-d has given us to do. Bless you all!

Blessings, Grace, and Peace,



AUGUST 14, 2015

Dear Friends,

Marhaba! (which is Hello! in Arabic). Today you are invited to come with us to the clinic that is supported by the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East (FRRME). We have partnered with a clinic already in operation in Amman, Jordan, which is located within the neighborhood of Swafieh.

Many of the refugees from Iraq that we have been able to support reside within the community of Marka. This is a half hour ride away from our clinic. The families we support don't have personal transportation so we provide it for them. Three days a week our bus transports about twenty patients, making the clinic available for care and services to those who need it most.

These combined efforts provide Iraqi refugees, often with no other means of support, an opportunity to see a dentist, gynecologist, dermatologist, a general practitioner, cardiologist, and an orthopedist. After our patients see their doctor, our bus takes those with prescriptions to a local pharmacy to pick up their treatment. These pharmacy costs are also fully covered by FRRME.

We often end our morning at the clinic by praying together. People then return home with medicine in hand, healthy teeth, small surgical procedures performed, tests read, check-ups had, and a greater peace of mind and body.

AUGUST 20, 2015

Dear Friends,

What has the summer looked like for our young Iraqi friends now displaced in Jordan?

To attend a Jordanian school, Iraqi refugee children must have their test scores and registration documents. Unfortunately, having fled the violence in Iraq, many children do not have this documentation. One of the goals at FRRME's school – the Marka Learning Centre – is to help get these documents back in the hands of the students that need them. The Iraqi government visited our school and agreed to testing the students in order to give them the paperwork they need in order to enroll locally.

The test administered by the Iraqi government comes at the beginning of September and the students have been diligently preparing, even through the summer break. The children will then return again for regular school as the Autumn term begins. Some will return to the Marka Learning Centre, while others will be able to attend local Jordanian schools. Either way, Iraqi refugee children have an opportunity to gain an education.

In addition to education, the Child Sponsorship Programme is designed to cover a student's basic living needs. Because Iraqi citizens – no matter what their previous profession in Iraq – can't legally be employed in Jordan, there is no way for a family to provide for themselves. This is intentional, so as to encourage their relocation elsewhere.

These basic needs, which are being met by FRRME, are the most urgent at hand. We're providing safe housing for the children, food coupons that allow families to do their own shopping, and vital health care. We also meet together as a church body.

Without this support, circumstances for refugee families here in Jordan can be dire. The families we work with left their homes, jobs, and possessions in a moment of chaos and alarm in Iraq. They came to Jordan with the clothes on their backs, the money in their pockets, and their lives. Any money they had in Iraqi banks was lost. The few that were able to bring money with them have by now run out.

Through FRRME's work, families know they have not been forgotten, that they are not alone, that God is with them.

Another aspect that must be understood when learning about the children's lives here in Jordan is the transience of being a refugee. No Iraqi refugee can make a plan to remain in Jordan – it is simply not an option. And so the lives of the families here are lived in this unknown, pause-like state with no work, no direction, and little hope for relocation to another country unless immediate family is already there.

I am happy to write that three families that are good friends of FRRME have recently been granted the opportunity to relocate to other countries such as Canada, the U.S and France, but these instances are few and far between.

When people are only waiting to leave a place, it affects everything; whether or not they seek to build relationships or invest themselves in a local church – it leaves people constantly wondering when, or if, they will ever get to leave.

Our families truly need places outside of Jordan to call home. Even though each new place would bring with it challenges of its own, at least it would be a place they could settle down in the long term. In the meantime, FRRME is making a real difference to the lives of Iraqi refugees here in Jordan.

Canon Andrew White On ISIS In Iraq - Jerusalem Dateline

Watch a video of him telling his story at: <http://www.cbn.com/tv/3879370412001>

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

Ministering Children

This is a 408 page book with 26 chapters.

I came across this book while doing some research on the author Lucy Bethia Colquhoun. In her autobiography she mentioned this book as one that made a great impression on her as a wee girl. Now at the time of writing she is a much older woman but she said that she thinks this is still a book every child should read. My interest was tweaked and so I found the book. I confess to agreeing with

her and so I thought I'd include the brief Preface and the first chapter for you to read here...

Preface

Difficulty being sometimes felt in training children to the exercise of those kindly feelings which have the Poor for their object, it was thought that an illustrative tale might prove a help toward this important end. It must be allowed by all, that the present is a day of increased exertion in behalf of those who are in need; but much care is necessary that the temporal aid extended may prove, not a moral injury, but a moral benefit, to both the receiver and the communicator of that aid. May it not be worthy of consideration, whether the most generally effective way to insure this moral benefit on both sides, would not be the early calling forth and training the sympathies of children by personal intercourse with want and sorrow, while as yet those sympathies flow spontaneously. Let the truth be borne in mind, that the influence of the giver far exceeds that of the gift on the receiver of it; and it must surely then be admitted, that in all aid rendered to others, the calling into exercise the best feelings of the heart, in both the giver and the receiver, is the most important object to be kept in view. To this end it is necessary that the talent of money be not suffered assume any undue supremacy in the service of nonviolence. Let children be trained, and taught, and led aright, and they will not be slow to learn that they possess a personal influence every where; that the first principles of Divine Truth acquired by them, are a means of communicating to others present comfort and eternal happiness; and that the heart of Love is the only spring that can effectually govern and direct the hand of Charity.

Chapter 1

Oh! say not, dream not heavenly notes
To childish ears are vain;
That the young mind at random floats
And can not catch the strain.
Dim or unheard the words may fall,
And yet the heaven-taught mind
May learn the sacred air, and all
The harmony unwind."

And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that,
If we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us." —1 John, v. 14.

THE chimes of the great church clock in a large old town were playing a quarter to nine, on a bright September morning, when a little school-girl, shutting her mother's door, came stepping down the long dark flight of stairs at the top of which she lived; she wore no shawl, or cloak, or bonnet; a frock of dark brown stuff, a little white linen apron tied round her waist, a white linen tippet, and a little fine linen cap with a single border crimped close round her face; this was the little schoolgirl's dress. Her name was Ruth: and on her arm she had hung her green baize bag with her Bible and school-books.

"Good-by, mother," she said: and shutting the door, stepped slowly down the dark stair-case, while her little white figure lighted up its gloom. When she reached the ground-floor of the house, she heard a low faint moan, as of some child in pain; she stopped a minute to listen, and heard it again. The door at the bottom of the stair-case stood a little way open, and Ruth had sometimes seen the widow woman and her child who had come to live in that room; and when she heard the moan again, she looked into the room, and there she saw the child in bed.

"Are you ill?" asked Ruth.

"Yes," said the child; "and my pain is so bad! and I have nobody to be with me."

"Won't your mother come?" asked Ruth.

"No, mother's got a day's work; she won't be home all day; and my pain is so bad! I wish you would stay with me."

"I must go to school," said Ruth, "but I will ask mother when I come home, to let me stay with you a

little.”

“O do! and make haste, do make haste! I don't like to be left alone.”

Ruth went on her way to school. The sun was shining bright, and its warm rays beamed on her face, which was almost as white as the little crimped linen cap that pressed closely round it. Merry children, boys and girls, ran shouting and playing past her; but she walked slowly on her way to school, and went up the high steps, and in at the school door, as the great church clock was striking nine. A good mark was set down in the book against her name, and she went to her place on the form.

Lessons went on for an hour, and the great church clock struck ten. Lessons went on for another hour, and the great church clock struck eleven. Then a lady came into the school, and called the second class to come to her. The children gathered round her, and Ruth was one of them; they got their Bibles and stood before her, and little Ruth had the place that was always hers, close by that lady's side. Ruth did not answer so many questions as some of the other children; she never spoke unless she was asked, and then she answered so softly, that no one but the lady heard; but the lady always seemed to smile at Ruth when she did answer, as if she had answered right. When the great church clock struck twelve, the lady went away; and the children put up their books into their bags, and went to their homes. Ruth could not stay with the sick child till she had asked her mother; but she thought she would just look in, and tell her she was come back. Ruth looked in, and the child was lying quite still in bed; she did not speak, so Ruth went up and stood beside her.

“Oh! I am so glad you are come!” said the poor child; “what a long time it was you kept at school! Oh! I want something so bad! I can't eat this bread mother left me, it's so hard, it hurts me when I try.”

“I have not had any food to-day,” said little Ruth.

“O dear,” said the sick child, “how bad it is! what do you do when you have no food?”

“I tell Jesus,” said little Ruth.

“Who do you tell?” asked the poor child.

“Jesus,” said little Ruth.

“Who is Jesus?” asked the poor child.

“What! don't you know who Jesus is?” said little Ruth. “I thought every body knew that except the poor heathen. He is our Saviour?”

“Does He give you some food?” asked the poor child.

“O yes, He. often sends us some food when mother has nothing: but I must go to mother now, or she will scold.”

“Do ask her to let you come and stay with me,” said the poor child.

“Yes, I will,” replied little Ruth; and she went up the high stair-case to her mother's room; she did not run with light quick steps, like children generally; but she went up slow and faint; for it was not one day alone, but many days, that little Ruth went to school without food. She had lost her own father: the father she now had was not her own father, and he thought only of himself and his own wicked pleasures, and left his wife and her children without food. But little Ruth had learned to pray; the lady who came to the school taught her from the Bible; and she had learned to know the love of God her Saviour; she loved and trusted Him, and, as she said in her own words, when they had no food “she told Jesus.” .

When Ruth went into her mother's room, she saw on the table a can of steaming soup. “O mother! is that for us?” she asked. “Yes, to be sure it is. Miss Wilson sent it in this minute.” Miss Wilson was the lady who came to the school. Ruth had not told Miss Wilson about their having no food that day; so

when she saw this can of hot soup she knew it was Jesus her Saviour who had put it into Miss Wilson's heart to send it to them. The poor babe was asleep on the bed; but Mary, Ruth's little sister, was standing at the table crying to be fed. Then the mother got a bason, and poured it full for Mary. There was meat, and rice, and potatoes in the nice hot soup; and poor little Mary left off crying directly she had her spoon and began to eat. Then the mother poured out a larger bason for Ruth, who stood quite patient by the table. Ruth waited a minute with her food before, her.

"What are you waiting for now?" asked her mother; "I have nothing more for you."

"No mother; but that widow's child is laid in bed; she says her pain is so bad, and her mother's out working, and she wants me to sit with her."

"Poor thing!" said Ruth's mother; "well, take your dinner, and then you may go a little while if you like."

"She has no food, mother, but a hard bit of bread, and she says she can't eat it, because it hurts her."

"Oh! and so you want to be after giving her some of yours, do you? Here, give me your bason then, and you take this jug." And Ruth's mother, pouring some more soup into the broken jug she had taken for herself, gave it to Ruth. "There, take care how you go, that you don't lose it now you have got it!" said the mother. And Ruth, holding the jug in both hands, went slowly and carefully down stairs. How happy was she now, in her hands she held the food she so much wanted; and the poor sick child, left all alone, was to share it with her and be happy also! As she got near the bottom of the stair-case she stepped quicker in her eager haste; then, pushing open the door, she went in saying, "See here, Miss Wilson sent us this beautiful soup, and mother's given me some for you!"

"O dear, how nice! how glad I am!" said the poor child.

"Have you got a bason?" asked Ruth.

"Yes, there's one in that closet, and a spoon too," said the child.

Ruth found a small yellow bason and a spoon: she broke up the child's dry bit of bread in the bason; poured some of the hot soup over it; folded her hands, and asked a blessing in the name of Jesus; and then the two children dined together. The warm nourishment brought the color to the white cheeks of little Ruth, and soothed the poor, faint, weary child. "How good you are to me!" she said to Ruth. "I feel better now; I think I shall go to sleep." Ruth put away the bason in the closet again; the sick child had closed her eyes, already almost slumbering; and the little ministering girl went back to her mother.

A day or two after, as Ruth came in from school, the sick child's mother was going out, and she stopped and said to Ruth, "My Lucy told me how good you were to her: the God above bless you for it! She is always calling out for you; I wish you would stay a bit with her when you can, just to pacify her."

Ruth's mother gave her leave to take the babe down and nurse it in the poor child's room where she still lay on her wretched bed, covered with a torn counterpane. Ruth walked up and down to quiet the babe and get it to sleep; she hushed and hushed it, but that would not do; so at last she began to sing one of her school hymns in a low voice,

"Jesus, refuge of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly."

The sick child listened; the low sweet singing soothed the infant to sleep, and the sick child into quiet feeling. "Is that Jesus you sing about, who you ask for food?" said the poor child.

"Yes," replied Ruth, "that's Jesus our Saviour! I can sing you something else about our Saviour, if you like."

"Yes, do," said the poor child. And Ruth sang—

"We read within the Holy Word
Of how our Saviour died;
And those great drops of blood,
He shed at eventide."

Over and over again, while she rocked the sleeping baby, she sang the same soft words. When she stopped, the sick child said, "I can't read; I never went to school long enough to learn."

"What, can't you read the Bible?" said Ruth.

"No, I can't read anything; I don't know any thing about it."

"I can tell you all about it," said Ruth. "I know such a number of stories out of the Bible! Miss Wilson tells them to us, and sometimes we tell them to her. And I know a great many verses, and some chapters and Psalms."

"I like stories best," said the poor child.

"Well, then, I will tell you one. Let me see, which shall I tell you? Oh! I know, I will tell you about the little lamb! Once there was a good man, his name was David; he was not at all old, he was quite young; and he didn't live in a town like this, but he lived in beautiful green fields, and on great high hills, where the flowers grow, and the trees, and where the birds sing. He was quite young, but he loved God, and Jesus our Saviour. And he prayed to God. And when he saw the stars come out in the sky, he thought about Jesus our Saviour, who lives up above the stars in Heaven, and he wrote about Him in the Bible.. He lived alone on the great high hills; and God took care of him; and he had a great many sheep and lambs, and they all ate the grass and were so happy! and he took care of them all. But one day there came a great roaring lion; he came so quiet; he did not make any noise! and he took a little lamb in his great mouth and ran so fast away! but the little lamb cried out, and David heard the little lamb, and he ran so fast that the great lion could not get away! and he caught the great lion and killed him; and he took the little lamb in his arms, and carried it quite safe back to its mother. Is not that a pretty story? And I know what Miss Wilson tells us about it!"

"What does she tell you?" asked the poor child.

"She tells us, that it is just like Jesus our Saviour; when Satan the great roaring lion tries to take us away, if we pray to Jesus, Jesus won't let him have us; but Jesus will take us up safe in His arms, and carry us to Heaven when we die, and then we shall be so happy there!"

"Will he carry me?" asked the poor child.

"Yes, He will if you pray to Him," said little Ruth.

"I don't know how to pray," the poor child replied.

"I will teach you my prayer," said little Ruth.

"O God, my Heavenly Father, give me Thy Holy Spirit to teach me to know and love Thee. Wash me from all my sins in my Saviour's precious blood. Keep me from all evil, and make me ready to live with Thee for ever in Heaven. For the sake of Jesus my Saviour. Amen."

"That is one of my prayers, and I can teach it to you. I have taught it to our Mary, and she can't read yet."

The poor child tried to learn it, but she could not remember the words; still it seemed to soothe her, to hear Ruth repeating them; at last the poor child said, "Wash me from all my sins! What are sins?"

"That is when we do wrong," said little Ruth; "we can't go with our bad ways to Heaven, but Jesus can wash them all away in His blood."

As little Ruth was coming home from school one of those bright September days, she saw a poor

woman sitting on a door step with a basket full of small penny nosegays of autumn flowers. Ruth stood still before the basket to look and admire. She had never known what it was to hunt over the meadow banks in spring for violets and primroses, or gather the yellow daffodil and beautiful anemone from the woods, or the sweet and frail wild rose from its thorny stem in the hedge; she had sometimes plucked a daisy from the grass, but this was the only flower that Ruth had ever gathered. And now she stood to look upon the woman's basket full of nosegays of garden flowers. While she stood looking, a mother and her little girl passed by.

"Oh! mamma," said the little girl, "look at those flowers!"

"A penny a nosegay, ma'am; only a penny a nosegay!" said the poor woman, holding out some of her flowers.

"Do you wish for a nosegay, Jane?" asked the mother of her little girl. .

"Yes. if you please, mamma."

Ruth thought how happy that little girl was to have a nosegay of her own! she watched her take it; and then the mother and her little girl went on, and Ruth went slowly the other way to her home. But as soon as the little girl had left the basket of flowers, she said, "Mamma, did you see that poor child who looked so at the flowers?" .

"Yes, Jane, do you think she wanted a nosegay?"

"O, mamma, will you buy her one?"

"I have not another penny with me, or I would."

"Do you think she would like me to give her mine, then, mamma?"

"Yes, suppose you do; I dare say she very seldom has a flower."

"Then I will; mamma, shall we go back?" The little girl looked back, and saw Ruth walking slowly away.

"O, mamma, she will be gone!"

The little girl did not like to leave her mother's side, so they walked quickly, back together, till they overtook Ruth, and then the little girl gave her the flowers; the bright color came into the cheeks of little Ruth as she curtsied and took the flowers; and then she set off to run with them home; she could not run far, but she walked fast, and looked at them all the way she went. "Mamma, did you see how fast that little girl ran with her flowers?" asked Jane.

"I dare say she wanted to take them home," said her mother.

And so that ministering child parted with her nosegay for the little girl, who had never gathered any flower but a daisy. Ruth soon reached home with her flowers; and first she went to the poor sick child, and she said, "See what beautiful flowers I have got! A lady bought them in the street, and her little girl gave them all to me! I will give you that beauty!" And Ruth pulled out the only rose from the nosegay, and put it into the little thin hand of the dying child. "O how sweet it smells!" said the poor sick child; and she lay on her hard pillow and the rose in her hand, the only gift she had had to gladden her, except food, since she had lain ill in her bed.

"Jesus, our Saviour, made the flowers!" said Ruth. "Miss Wilson says it was Jesus made every flower to grow out of the earth."

"How kind He must be!" said the dying child.

Then Ruth took the rest of her flowers up to her mother, and they were put in water to live many days.

Ruth used to go in often to see the poor sick child, and tell her stories from the Bible, and sing her hymns when she had the baby with her. But one cold November day, when she came into the house from school, the poor child's mother came crying from her room, and said to her, "O! I am so glad you are come! I thought I must have come after you; my poor child's dying, and she keeps asking for you." Ruth went in and stood by the bed, and the dying child said, "Dear Ruth, I am quite happy. I love you very much; and I want you to sing that about 'Those great drops of blood Jesus shed at even-tide.'" Ruth sang it as well as she could, but she was ready to cry.

"I want you to sing it over and over, as you do to the babe," said the dying child.

Ruth sang it two or three times, and then she stopped; the poor child had shut her eyes, and seemed asleep, but she soon opened them again, and said, "O do sing about 'Jesus let me to Thy bosom fly'" and while Ruth sang, and the mother stood weeping by, the little child fell asleep, and died. Ruth cried for her little friend, and missed her very much. But now the child's poor mother said she wanted Ruth to comfort her up, as she had done her poor child; and she begged Ruth to read to her, and tell her those beautiful stories, for she could not read herself. And so Ruth became the poor widow's little comforter.

When we see a child dressed neat and warm in her school dress, we often think she is well taken care of; but it is not always so; and sometimes the little school girl or boy is much more hungry and faint, than the child who begs his food in the streets. We cannot tell how it really is with poor children, or poor men and women, unless we visit them in their homes. Miss Wilson had often been to see little Ruth, so she knew all her sorrows, and she comforted and often fed the little girl, and loved her very much. But there was another child who went to the same school, and wore the same neat dress, and stood in the same class as Ruth, but she had no comforter; her name was Patience. She lived like Ruth, in one room, up a dark staircase; but she had no mother, like Ruth; her mother died when she was an infant; and poor Patience had never had any one to love or comfort her. Her father was a bad and cruel man; Patience had been taken care of by an elder sister, but her sister was gone quite away from her home, and she lived alone with her father. She came to school every day, but she generally came late; she had learned to read there, but she hardly ever knew her lessons; and she never answered when asked the reason. She was very small, and very thin; and the lady who came to the school never saw her laugh, or smile, or cry; she always looked upon the ground, her lips were pressed together, and she seldom answered when spoken to. Miss Wilson, the lady at the school, thought she did not care about any thing; she had never been to see her in her home, she thought it was no use to go and see a child who seemed not to care for any thing; so she did not know the sorrows of the little girl, and therefore she did not try to comfort her: nothing seemed to amuse or interest her, she looked with the same dull eyes on all.

Poor Patience had no comforter, no blessed ministering child had been yet to her. One day as Patience was walking to school, a little companion came and walked by her side—a rosy-faced child, eating bread and butter, finishing her breakfast on the way to school. Poor Patience had had no food that morning, she would have been so thankful for part of the child's bread and butter; but she did not ask for any, and when they reached the school, the child threw all she had left of it to a fat black goat who lived at a stable close by. The black goat tossed his head, and eat it up. Then poor Patience said, "O Nancy, how glad I should be of the food you waste!" and she stood watching the black goat eating up the bread and butter. But Nancy was not like little Ruth, she was not a ministering child, and she ran up the steps into the school, and thought no more of her bread and butter, and her little hungry school-fellow.

I provide a link to download this book at the foot of the page at:
http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/sinclair_john.htm

I might add this is why I've always been in favour of having free milk at school. At least that way every child gets some nourishment.

Irena Sender

Thanks to our Grand Chancellor for sending this in.



Irena Sender
Died: May 12, 2008 (aged 98)
Warsaw, Poland



During WWII, Irena, got permission to work in the Warsaw ghetto, as a Plumbing/Sewer specialist. She had an ulterior motive. Irena smuggled Jewish infants out in the bottom of the tool box she carried. She also carried a burlap sack in the back of her truck, for larger kids. Irena kept a dog in the back that she trained to bark when the Nazi soldiers let her in and out of the ghetto. The soldiers, of course, wanted nothing to do with the dog and the barking covered the kids/infants noises.



During her time of doing this, she managed to smuggle out and save 2500 kids/infants. Ultimately, she was caught, however, and the Nazis broke both of her legs and arms and beat her severely. Irena kept a record of the names of all the kids she had smuggled out in a glass jar that she buried under a tree in her back yard. After the war, she tried to locate any parents that may have survived and tried to reunite the family. Most had been gassed. Those kids she helped got placed into foster family homes or adopted.



In 2007 Irena was up for the Nobel Peace Prize. She was not selected. Al Gore won, for a slide show on Global Warming. Later another politician, Barack Obama, won for simply being the first black president.

It is now 70 years since the Second World War in Europe ended. This is featured as a memorial chain, in memory of the six million Jews, 20 million Russians, 10 million Christians and 1,900 Catholic priests who were murdered and massacred.

Now, more than ever, with Iran, and others, claiming the HOLOCAUST to be 'a myth', it's imperative to make sure the world never forgets, because there are others who would like to do it again.

How might this product affect the timber industry in Canada?

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Religion

A Concise System of Theology

On the Basis of the Shorter Catechism by Alexander Smith Peterson, A.M. (1881).

While working on a biography of a missionary I first came across reference to this book which was made in very complimentary terms. I thus thought I should try and find it and having found it have added it to my Religious section of my Electric Scotland web site.

I thought this might be of interest to some of our Knights and Dames and so include mention of it here.

In the Preface it says...

THE Author of the following work, Mr ALEXANDER SMITH PATERSON, was the elder son of the late Rev. Alexander Paterson of Dundee, and nephew of the Rev. Dr Paterson, one of the ministers of Montrose. He was educated at the Grammar School and Marischal College, Aberdeen, where his family resided after the death of his father. Although a singularly laborious student, he evinced no small anxiety in the prospect of appearing before the Presbytery for examination. This apprehension was, in a great measure, the occasion of leading him to draw up very ample notes on the topics connected with Ecclesiastical History, which were afterwards posthumously published under the title, "History of the Church from the Creation of the World to the Nineteenth Century." The present work was composed with a some what similar object; and it is supposed that the intensity of mind which he brought to bear on both, in some measure hastened his premature and lamented death, which took place on the 12th of September 1828, in the 25th year of his age. The "Analysis of the Shorter Catechism" was left by Mr Paterson in a state of entire preparation for the press, but various circumstances have delayed its publication. It is now presented to the public entirely on account of its intrinsic merit. The manuscript was submitted to several distinguished ministers, who expressed their opinions in terms of the most unqualified approbation. In particular, the Rev. Dr Brewster of Craig described it "as being one of the most beautiful, complete, and accurate expositions of the Shorter Catechism which has ever appeared, unfolding the meaning of the answers to each question, with a clearness and minuteness of detail hitherto unequalled in works of the kind." Another gentleman of great literary experience, stated, that it "had been prepared with such elaborate care, that, after a critical perusal, he could not suggest the addition or diminution of a single word." Strong as these testimonies are, the Publisher confidently anticipates that they will be amply borne out by an examination of the work itself.

The annexed admirable Paper on the History and Arrangement of the Shorter Catechism, by the Rev. Duncan Macfarlan of Renfrew, appeared some time ago in a periodical publication, and is transferred into this volume with the obliging permission of the author.

You can get to this book at:

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

Robert Collyer

In the biography mentioned above the sermons of this American Minister were also quoted as being inspiring and so again I looked for and found two books of his sermons. Here is a bit about him...

Collyer was born in Keighley, Yorkshire, England, on December 8, 1823; the family moved to Blubberhouses within a month of his birth. At the age of eight he was compelled to leave school and support himself by work in a linen factory. He was naturally studious, however, and supplemented his scant schooling by night study. At fourteen he was apprenticed to a blacksmith, Jacky Birch—who had taught the trade to Samuel Collyer, Robert's father, in Blubberhouses—and for several years worked at this trade at Ilkley. In 1849 he became a local Methodist minister. In the same year, his wife Harriet died on 1 February, and his infant daughter Jane on 4 February.

In the following year emigrated to the United States, where he obtained employment as a hammer maker at Shoemakersville, Pennsylvania. Here he soon began to preach on Sundays while still employed in the factory on weekdays. His earnest, rugged, simple style of oratory made him extremely popular, and at once secured for him a wide reputation. His advocacy of anti-slavery principles, then frowned upon by the Methodist authorities, aroused opposition, and eventually resulted in his trial for heresy and the revocation of his licence. He continued, however, as an independent preacher and lecturer, and in 1859, having joined the Unitarian Church, became a missionary of that church in Chicago, Illinois working as the first minister-at-large of the First Unitarian Church of Chicago. In 1860 he organized and became pastor of the Unity Church, the second Unitarian church in Chicago. Under his guidance the church grew to be one of the strongest of that denomination in the West, and Collyer himself came to be looked upon as one of the foremost pulpit orators in the country. During the American Civil War, he was active in the work of the Sanitary Commission. In 1879 he left Chicago and became pastor of the Church of the Messiah, now renamed the Community Church in New York City. Later he brought his old friend, the popular writer and hymnodist, Minot Judson Savage, to assist him in his ministry. In 1883, when he visited Birmingham in England, he engaged Marie Bethell Beauclerc to report and edit his sermons and prayers which

were published during the same year. In 1903 Collyer became pastor emeritus. He died in 1912.

The two books of his sermons can be read by clicking on the links below..

The Life That Now Is:

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

Nature and Life:

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

Dugald Buchanan

Finally, I was doing research on Dugald Buchanan, the Sacred Bard of the Scottish Highlands, and I quote this wee bit from his biography...

He was at the same time introduced to David Hume, who maintained, in conversation with him, that, although the bible was an excellent book, it was surpassed in beauty and sublimity of language by many profane authors. In support of his assertion, he quoted the lines –

" The cloud-capt towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself;
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,
And, like the baseless fabric of a vision,
Leave not a wreck behind."

The devout bard admitted the beauty and sublimity of these lines, but said, that he could furnish a passage from the New Testament still more sublime, and recited the following verses: (Rev. xx. 22.) "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heavens fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which was the book of life: - And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."

"La a' Bhreitheanais" which was translated from the Gaelic into Scots by James Robertson. This long poem on the final confrontation between God and sinner is generally regarded as Buchanan's masterpiece. A terrifying and dramatic vision of eternal punishment.

Should you wish to read more about him and his work you can get to my page on him at: http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/buchanan_dugald.htm

What are we to do with all the refugees?

By Sir Alastair McIntyre GOTJ

I really think it is time that we had a whole new look at the refugee crisis and as I have some thoughts on this thought I'd share them with you.

I know when I first came to Canada I learned of the settlement at Elliot Lake where the town was created for the mining industry. When the mines closed the town was virtually a ghost town but then Retirement Living decided to purchase the town. I understand a 3 bedroom home could be purchased for \$35,000 in those days and they already had an infrastructure such as a medical centre, school, etc. I later learned of another such town, the name escapes me at the moment, but it was a similar situation.

I thus wondered if there were other such towns in Canada where this situation exists and thus might be converted to take in refugees. And by refugees I mean the people that are fleeing their homes due to war such as in Syria. As I understand it these people just want to be safe but would return to their homes when it was safe to do so. This means we would be looking after refugees that don't want to settle in other countries and do want to go home but in the meantime just need to be safe while the world sorts out the mess that caused all this.

I then further considered how in America and in Europe there must surely be old communities that

have been in decline and have lots of empty real estate such as Detroit. Could they not take in these people? Mind that most of them are ordinary people that would likely look after such homes to ensure they have a safe life for their families. Having people live there would surely help to improve the housing stock as left empty the homes would just fall down..

Then I wondered about old army camps. Some of them had to look after the soldiers and their families so also had amenities for families. Surely there must be some that are now empty that could be used to house these families?

The next thing I considered was to force a section of land in the Middle East to be a safe zone...

Perhaps a section of Syria where we could protect it by air cover and troops on the ground. This would be a more local safe zone where people could live in safety. I suspect that Europe or indeed China would police the area. In some respect China might be a good choice as they have no history in that part of the world and it is time that they contributed something to this disaster instead of sitting on the sidelines.

I even started to wonder if the world should take over Gaza and thus police this area as an Independent neutral zone. I mean by this that there is no way Israel and the Palestinians are going to agree on a two state solution when Israel has an enemy right on their doorstep. Ban all military and political movements and let the UN police it as a safe haven.

With the billions being spent to manage these refugees surely we could do something different to make sure these families are safe?

Now having got them somewhere safe with shelter, food, medical and education then we might explore how they could contribute back. My view is that most of these families want to earn a living so at the very least I'm sure they would want to contribute something back to the country that shelters them. Might we find work that would contribute to the country without causing unrest in the country? We're bound to get some resentment from locals saying they are being better looked after than they are. This is of course an area of possible contention but remember this is meant to be a temporary situation (possibly some years) but they will be returned home eventually.

I noted the other day that in Northern Scotland there are some 300 teachers posts vacant as they just can't find teachers to fill those posts. There must surely be other such cases in other countries where finding workers is an issue. Perhaps this would allow some latitude to providing jobs for those refugees while they are waiting to return home? They would then pay taxes on their income which would contribute back to the country that looks after them.

I do feel Europe and the EU in particular simply have no ideas on how to resolve this issue and frankly they are starting to look like real idiots in the process.

How might the Templars get involved in this? It seems to me from the very little I know that the Templars are more concerned with churches than people. So perhaps with all our contacts we might look at how we could acquire some land where we could settle some of these refugees and show by example how the situation could be improved in a minor way. This could be an example for a much greater effort. In our history we shed blood defending Christians in the Holy Land so why can't we do more ourselves? We were also master merchants and through trade and banking we almost ruled all of Europe. So why can't we do some commercial activity and invest in a project where by example we can show the world how to do things better?

I would also make a plea to our OSMTM leaders to create a project that the whole order can get behind and that we can talk about.

Note: The views expressed above are my own personal views and should in no way be reflective of our own Canadian Grand Priory. I do however believe that our Knights and Dames should be able to express their personal views on any matters they wish and would encourage them to submit articles for this newsletter. We do have members with vast experience in various fields and it would be good to get their views on any topic.

Good Cheer

Ottawa, Canada, Christmas, 1913, A.D.

My Friend,

Be of good cheer. How? How, if there be no grand or graceful or gorgeous setting to our life? Where? Where, if there be lonesome work in the field, dreary chores about the stable, drudgery in the factory, strife for gain in the store, dullness in the school and no charm in the home? When? When, if there be no time for more than getting things and seeking after pleasures and show?

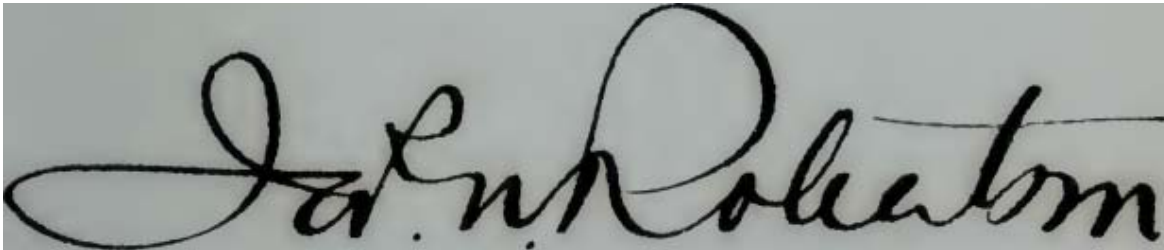
A manger-cradle was not a grand or graceful or gorgeous setting in which to start. And now His festival is the universal acclaim to the supreme success of His life.

The makings of Good Cheer are in diligence; in good work for useful ends; in fair-play; in patience; and in following high ideals of duty. It is the sheen and bloom of the fine Art of Living.

The fine Art of Living includes all honourable occupations— yours and mine. It brings beauty, truth and goodness into every field and stable and factory and store and school and home, while the artist works and plays and worships with others for the common good. He knows that nothing can spoil sunshine and that clouds which soften its beams carry refreshing rains.

To be somebody worth while, to do something worth while, to leave something worth while— something the better because we lived; to give ten minutes a day to serious thinking of how we can contribute to the welfare of Canada:—that will bring Good Cheer and give Good Cheer; that will cause us to be of good cheer.

Faithfully yours,



Christmas, 2913, A.D.

My Friend,—

Over a thousand years ago—what a short long span!— there were many honest men, gentle women and happy boys and girls in Canada. Some of them set apart ten minutes a day to consider what they could do and be to help Canada to become great, beautiful and glorious.

Those were stormy and strenuous days when intelligent warfare was being waged against ignorance and poverty and disease and vice and ill-wills. Yet many of the men who made the laws, and governed others through the primitive instrumentalities—visible and invisible—which they called self-government, gathered into their own hands, for their own ends, the control of the largest share of the wealth produced by the labor of others. Conventional expressions perpetuated a habit of chaotic thinking and acting as to the true place of things in the scheme of justice, liberty and happiness.

Then the unexpected happened and wholesome reorganization came to pass out of the seething mass of discontent. As by a miracle, they all with one consent fell to honest work for its own sake and for the pleasure of its processes. They went into the service of the community for sheer joy, as children have always done. They too found happiness and light. They established conditions of justice, pure and all-pervading, by wise laws and noble living.

And now, in 2913, our tasks are harder and more enjoyable than theirs, as our powers and opportunities are greater. Peace reigns. Models of Dreadnoughts are with the fossils of Dinosaurs in

the museums. Earth and air and sea and sunshine minister to us abundantly. Plenty abounds. We converse across continents. We sing in the Christmas Hallelujah of the world. But the greatest conquest is still to be completed. Until then it doth not yet appear what we shall be.

Instead of risking all by pride and indolence and self-satisfaction, it becomes us to set our faces afresh to the dawn and resolve anew to make the quality and conditions of life the best that may be for those who are to follow. Let us do so until the coming of the perfect day, when there shall be no more sorrow, or pain, or sin, and Christmas shall be a daily festival of the peace which passeth understanding. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Faithfully yours,

A true story, by Malcolm Forbes

Taken from Beth's Newfangled Family Tree, a Scots American publication at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft>

There is a moral in this story...

A lady in a faded gingham dress and her husband, dressed in a homespun threadbare suit, stepped of the train in Boston and walked timidly without an appointment into the Harvard University President's outer office.

The secretary could tell in a moment that such backwoods, country hicks had no business at Harvard, and probably didn't even deserve to be in Cambridge.

'We'd like to see the president,' the man said softly.

'He'll be busy all day,' the secretary snapped.

'We'll wait,' the lady replied.

For hours the secretary ignored them, hoping that the couple would finally become discouraged and go away.

They didn't, and the secretary grew frustrated and finally decided to disturb the president, even though it was a chore she always regretted.

'Maybe if you see them for a few minutes, they'll leave,' she said to him!

He sighed in exasperation and nodded. Someone of his importance obviously didn't have the time to spend with them, and he detested gingham dresses and homespun suits cluttering up his outer office. The president, stern faced and with dignity, strutted toward the couple.

The lady told him, 'We had a son who attended Harvard for one year. He loved Harvard. He was happy here. But about a year ago, he was accidentally killed. My husband and I would like to erect a memorial to him, somewhere on campus.'

The president wasn't touched. He was shocked. 'Madam,' he said, gruffly, 'we can't put up a statue for every person who attended Harvard and died. If we did, this place would look like a cemetery.'

'Oh, no,' the lady explained quickly. 'We don't want to erect a statue. We thought we would like to give a building to Harvard.'

The president rolled his eyes. He glanced at the gingham dress and homespun suit, then exclaimed, 'A building! Do you have any earthly idea how much a building costs? We have over seven and a half million dollars in the physical buildings here at Harvard.'

For a moment the lady was silent. The president was pleased. Maybe he could get rid of them now. The lady turned to her husband and said quietly, 'Is that all it cost to start a university? Why don't we

just start our own?'

Her husband nodded. The president's face wilted in confusion and bewilderment.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Stanford got up and walked away, traveling to Palo Alto, California where they established the university that bears their name, Stanford University, a memorial to a son that Harvard no longer cared about.

You can easily judge the character of others by how they treat those who they think can do nothing for them.

The Faithful Traveler in the Holy Land

This is the video I recommend in this issue which is in several parts. I offer the link to the first part from which you will find the rest of the series if you just scroll down the page and look at the descriptions on the right of the page.

Host Diana von Glahn tours the Carmelite chapel on Mount Carmel, floats in the Dead Sea, and explores Qumran. After visit to Jerusalem's Church of St Anne, she ends in Nazareth, admiring the Basilica of the Annunciation, Church of St Joseph, and the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Gabriel.

View at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jcWwFmiH0eM>

Also watch this one...

Full of wisdom, and very brief.

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

How Modern History Symbolism Interpretations can destroy the future of Core Christianity Symbolism

By Gary Gianotti

This is an article showing how the letter E has been confused for the letter M and thus is being used to confuse the symbolism in ancient paintings and artifacts. When you incorrectly interperate the letter E as an M then of course you get all kinds of claims and in Gary's article he reveals how this is happening...

Over the last several years, I dedicated many thousands of research hours in the effort to finding the truth regarding the legendary story of the Templar's coming to America and the association of the Scots being responsible for the creation of all the United States Sovereign symbolism and economic infrastructure.

Many wonderful things have been rediscovered and many not so good things have been also rediscovered. Over time I learned how to weigh out the understanding of the balance. Except in the last year I learned that the American History Channels hit TV series star Scott Wolter of "America Unearthed" decided to do a show segment dedicated to exposing the secret symbolism of the Knights Templar. Wolter along with Steve St. Clair and historian Alan Butler all took a visit to the Knights Templar Commandery at Arville, France.



Here they presented their findings of a kaleidoscope of "M" signs adorn Mary encircled with twelve angels in this painting hanging inside the Church at the Templar Commandery.

Wolter has presented that the first thirteen states of the United States along with the 13 Stars & Stripes flag symbolism all represents thirteen for the letter "M" in the Alphabet for Mary. Over the last ten years of researching the United States great seal engraver Robert Scot of Edinburgh Scotland, I became very familiar with a symbol he always used, the letter "E", whether it is found on stone art, engraved relics, paintings, books, coins, wood carvings, painted fags and countless religious artifacts. Relics that date from the time after Christ's death into the 18th century, we are talking about one of the most used symbols in the Christian and western world that spans the time in use for nearly two thousand years.

Consistently found associated with Christian Stone Masons work in churches and passed down into the art of the art guilds. The symbol "E" the fifth letter, in Greek, that looks like the English "E" is the first letter of the Greek word for "Savior." The "E" in Latin also symbolizes "God" and often in association with Christ's cousin St. John the Baptist.

Order of the Knights Templar historians all know that when the order was put down the Templar lands in the UK were all given over to the Knight Order of St. John, which is well documented. Few historians mention that the Lord Torphichen, a title created by Queen Mary in 1564 for Sir James Sandilands (to whom she was related) served as Preceptor of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta in Scotland. The Sinclair's of Rosslyn and the line of Robert Scot the engravers gr-gr father Sir John Scot of Scotstarvet's father Robert first married a daughter of the line of the Sandilands. Basically, some of the very important families that are associated to being Templar lines married into the lines of the Lord Torphichen, to an extent.

Only until recently did the writer of this document have the light bulb turn on upstairs, regarding Mr. Wolter's "M" symbolism for St. Mary and the impact it will make in the future if not addressed! If you note I said that the Knights of St. John took over all the Templar lands and Commandery sites that includes many in Europe and the one at Arville, France. Please look back at the image of the painting above and note the coat of arms and the Malta Cross on the painting. Clearly Mr. Wolter is clearly wrong on the symbolism, while trying to advance his theory's as fact with a Knights of St. John painting that is indeed a painting found in an original Knights Templar Commandery.

Below is one of the rarest Jacobite buttons rediscovered and I want you to see the red arrow pointing

at the “E” in the center dot. This is just a basic example, with seeing the symbol “E”. Yes we know there is Free Masonic association in the work below by Robert Scot and Royal symbolism associated with the Scottish exiled crown.



My biggest concern is that Wolter being on a very popular television show, has presented the wrong information on one of the most important symbols that represents “God, Jesus the Savior and from a Masonic view, the Great Creator”. What if this claimed “M” symbol for Mary went unchecked for a hundred years or a few hundred years? Where basic mainstream historians acknowledged this “M” claim in the future. Wolter also says it represents Mary Magdalen and history associated to the secrets of Mary and Jesus having a child with his historical Templar history research.

Historically speaking as a researcher, millions of Christian and Masonic relics with this symbol being told as an “M” could potentially endanger this historical interpretation of all those relics. Could this make an impact that can change this important symbolism true meaning in the future? Yes it could! History gets rewritten all the time and its not always the truth or factual.

Now you the reader may find this very interesting, if you are not familiar with the true corporation owner of the History Channel, let me fill you in on this person. The Hearst Media Corporation owns many television networks and the History Channel show where in 2015. Mr. Wolter presented his theory he claims to have solved on the Knights Templar “M” symbolism for both Mary’s. Did he ever think that using a Knights of Malta painting of St. Mary to present his incorrect theory that he would be also be making a negative impact on hundreds of thousands of relics that are associated to the Order of St. John and the Knights of Malta at the same time?

How would William Randolph Hearst III, the President of Heart Corporation feel about Mr. Wolter’s incorrect symbolism impact on damaging history with millions of relics that have the symbol “E” for God, Our Savior Christ and from the Masonic symbolism side of being the Great Architect . My guess is he would definitely support in correcting this mistake. My theory is that the low level producers with Mr. Wolter never really did their home work. When it comes to being the “History Channel” you would think these people would be on their game with being historically accurate and I am sure Mr. Hearst does not have the time to look into all of their shows, being that his work is very demanding on a broad scale.

The reason why I think Mr. Hearst would support addressing this issue is because I said it can impact many Knights of Malta relics as well. The Hearst family direct to the current William Randolph Hearst II are documented as high ranking members of the Knights of Malta and he may also be a Knight as well. Not saying that he is a Knight, but so many conspiracy theorists are not specific if its the grandfather or Will Randolph Jr. who passed some decades ago. What if the current owner of the History Channel followed in the families foot steps and is a high ranking Knighted member of the Knights of Malta? Would he condone this killing of his fraternal symbolism of his Order that was done on a TV network he owns or controls? This is not just any symbolism, its a core symbol of Christianity and the church that is ancient to the identity of Christian history.

A Wee Bit of Humour

Seven reasons why God Created Eve

1. God was worried that Adam, being alone, would regularly get lost in the garden of Eden because he refused to ask for directions
2. God knew right from the start that Adam would eventually need someone to find the remote and then hand it to him
3. God knew that Adam didn't have any idea how to choose the latest style of fig leaf when his old one wore out. He would therefore need someone to choose one for him
4. God knew that Adam would never be able to make an appointment with a doctor, dentist or hairdresser all by himself
5. God knew that Adam was having difficulty in remembering which days he needed to put the recyclable rubbish in the 'green' bin
6. God knew that if the world was to be populated, Adam would never be able to handle the pain and discomfort of childbearing
7. When God finished creating Adam, he stepped back, scratched his head, and said, "I can do better than that."

A salesman returns from his assignment in Saudi Arabia, where he went to sell them a new brand of Coca-Cola.

Seeing his crestfallen face, a friend asks him: "Why the long face?"

The salesman replied: "I failed in Saudi-Arabia, the campaign was a total failure."

"Why is that?" Asked the friend, "I thought you had a good campaign running."

"Well, when I got posted there, I was very confident that I would make a great sales pitch to the Saudis. But I had a problem - I didn't speak Arabic, so I planned to convey the meaning of the message with the use of three images:

First poster: A man lying in the hot desert sand in utter exhaustion, he has fainted.

Second poster: The man is drinking the new Coca-Cola brand.

Third poster: Our man is now totally refreshed and feeling great.



I had these posters pasted all over the place. You couldn't go anywhere without seeing them."

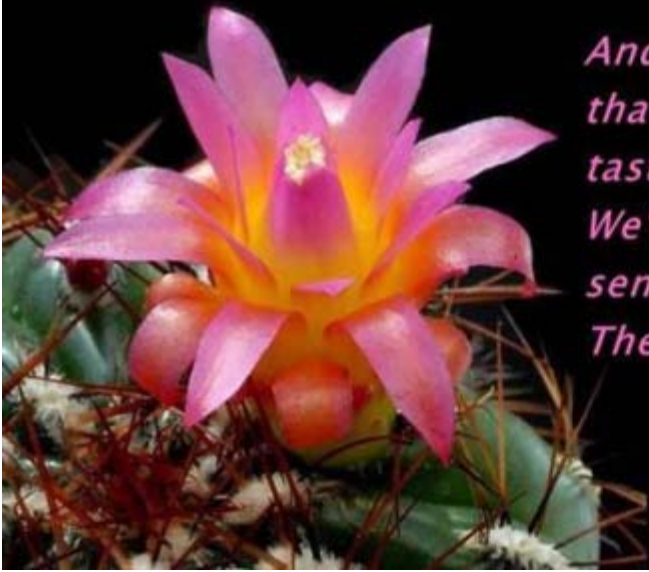
"Terrific! That should have worked!" said the friend.

"The heck it should have!" said the salesman.

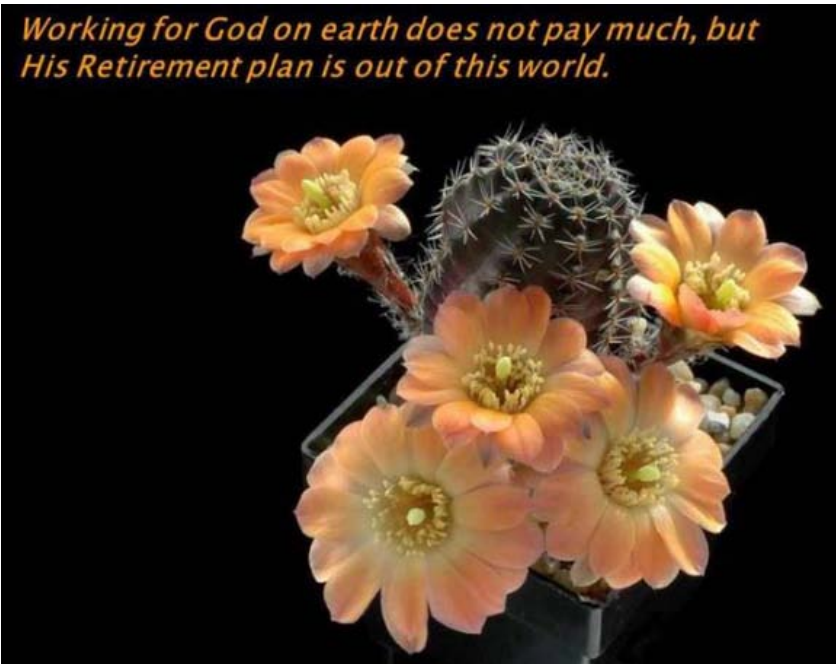
"Only no one told me they read from right to left!!"

*Keep a SMILE on your face and a SONG in your heart!
A smile, is a sign of joy.
A hug, is a sign of love.
A laugh, is a sign of happiness.*

*And a friend like me?, Well
that's just a sign of good
taste!!
We'll be friends until I am
senile.
Then we'll be new friends.*



*Working for God on earth does not pay much, but
His Retirement plan is out of this world.*



Enigma Machine Answers

1. ROSEMARY
 2. CORIANDER
 3. CLOVE
 4. MINT
 5. GINGER
 6. OREGANO
 7. THYME
 8. LEMON BALM
 9. CHIVE
 10. YARROW
 11. CINNAMON
 12. WINTERGREEN
 13. MARIGOLD
-

Notable Upcoming Events

[Canadian](#) [International](#)

[September 26 - Toronto Investiture, St. James Cathedral, dinner at RCMI to follow.](#)

[September 30 - October 4 Cologne, Germany, International Meeting](#)

[November 7 - Windsor Investiture](#)

[April 13 - 17, 2016 Copenhagen, Denmark, International Meeting](#)

[Fall 2016, Sophia, Bulgaria, International Meeting](#)

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

Priory Contacts:

Grand Priory of Canada

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

Priory of the Ascension of our Lord, Windsor

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

St James Priory, Toronto

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

Priory of Simon Peter, Ottawa

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

Commandary of Edmonton

[Sir Robert MacMullen](#)

Preceptory of Halifax, Nova Scotia

[Dame Anne C. Matthewman](#)

Newsletter Editors

[Sir Alastair McIntyre](#) GOTJ Tel: +1 519 351 7020 EST

[H. E. The Rev Dame Nola Crewe](#), Grand Chancellor.
