

The Canadian Templar



December 2015
Newsletter



News and Report from our Grand Prior

In this edition of the Canadian Templar you will find many articles and news items relating to recent world events. As an international Christian Order we all have been affected and will continue to be affected. Although it may appear to be a somber edition, the fact is that we can rejoice in our Faith, and know the Joy and the Truth, especially as we enter the Christmas season. Below is a message I sent to our Grand Commander Col Dr. Marcel de Picciotto, and Jean Pelegrin the Grand Prior of France, immediately following the horrible attacks in Paris.

"Dear Grand Commander Marcel, Grand Prior Jean and all Brothers and Sisters in France,

The Grand Priory of Canada and all the peoples of our nation send our sincere condolences for the senseless acts of cowardly barbarism that have taken place in Paris last night. No nation is immune from this horror. We must not be intimidated by terrorists and their inhumane actions. Canadians know this first hand and stand firmly



with our French Brothers and Sisters at this dark and difficult time. Our thoughts and Prayers are with you all.”

As many of you know, on November 6 we lost a dear friend, a dedicated and faithful member of our Order, former Grand Commander Major General Robert Disney. Both Robert and his lovely wife Sheila have been to Canada many times. He was installed as Grand Commander at the Toronto international gathering and considered Canadians among his second family. The Vicar General and I attended his service in Florida. Further in the edition you will find his obituary and tribute, which just skims over his very interesting and service filled life.

George Platsis has done a fine job on putting together a presentation on OSMTH activities at the United Nations. The UN Committee for the Status of Women will be held in New York 14 – 24 March, 2016, and the theme will be “Women’s empowerment and its links to sustainable development”. If anyone is interested in attending, contact George for more information. Guest passes are limited.

The Christmas season is a special time of the year and is fast approaching. It is filled with hope and promises, for now and for our future. Take comfort in those truths for they will make our world a better place. We all have our part in God’s plans. It starts with us and our families.

Theresa and I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and may your 2016 be filled with good health, joy and happiness.

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

Editor's Letter

We are now starting our 4th year of publication.

Our article in the last issue on "How Modern History Symbolism Interpretations can destroy the future of Core Christianity Symbolism" by Gary Gianotti brought us a flurry of activity. It was widely quoted on social media and on various forums. Great to see our newsletter being widely read outside our order.

I did a half hour video chat about OSMTH and the Grand Priory of Canada which I posted on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/z7n7XgGHuuk>

I figured it was about time we had something up telling the world about OSMTH and our own Grand Priory. I might add that I added links under the video to various things I discussed.

Given the OSMTH RESOLUTION NR 12 OF 2015 which is detailed below Canadians can hold their heads up high. Through this newsletter we have been detailing the conflict in the Holy Land and further afield to help educate us on what is going on. We have thus for some years being doing the work that the Resolution now calls for.

I've added two lengthy articles in this issue the first of which is about "The World is Changing" which claims that Democracy isn't working and is suggesting a different path to take. It's been written by a gentleman from India.

The second article is about "Geomantic Information Systems; Exploring Axis Mundi, the Earth Grid, the Holy Grail and Ley Lines" by Cort Lindahl which includes fascinating information that covers many of our Grand Priory countries including Greece, France, UK, Canada and the USA and the Templars and our thanks to Cort for letting us publish it.

Hope you enjoy them and that they make you think.

Of course there are many other articles included and the larger stories are available via web links and so you are best to read this online so you can easily get to the videos and web sites listed in here.

I might add that I am guided by the Brussels Declaration of the Order which states our vision as...

Today, OSMTH – Knights Templar International looks for a world in which:

a constructive dialogue between the great religious faiths, and the individuals and nations that adhere to them, is conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect, understanding and peace;

the holy sites of Christianity and the other great faiths are respected, protected and maintained, and pilgrims can travel to them in safety;

the dedication, generosity and integrity of all those engaged in providing humanitarian aid are recognised and valued, and aid workers carry out their vital work in an ethical manner without fear of discrimination;

the principles of active charity, courtesy, dedication and honesty, inherent in the highest ideals of a code of chivalry and a personal rule of life, are spread wider and wider in society;

and

the contribution of the Knights Templar, medieval and modern, with regard to agriculture, construction, transportation, crafts, medicine, finance, inter-faith affairs, diplomacy and philanthropy is both well researched, and also widely understood and valued by the public.

And so this lets me cover a huge range of material within the newsletter from all over the world. Past issues of these newsletters can be downloaded at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/religion/kt.htm>

As I didn't get any feedback on the Enigma Machine puzzle I decided not to do another one in this issue.

And now it's nearly Christmas time where I also look to offer something for the wee ones.



And wishing you and your families and pets a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Create your own card by bringing up the "Dress the Chief" program at:
<http://www.electricscotland.com/kids/dress12-20.swf>
and just hit the Print Screen button to capture your creation to the clipboard.

Also

Lots of Children's stories available for the wee ones at:

http://www.electricscotland.com/kids/childrens_stories.htm

I might add we had an American Billionaire that was a great fan of the series of stories about Ian & Mac, the cheeky Raccoons, who was obviously a Kid at Heart!

Bishop Keenan. "In the run-up to Christmas," he says, "we should remember that Jesus was a refugee and homeless in Bethlehem, an asylum-seeker in Egypt and a vagrant before he was even four."

News from the Priory of Ascension of Our Lord, Windsor

Report on the 2015 Interfaith Symposium
By Dr Sir Norman King

Sponsored by the Assumption University Centre for Religion and Culture and the Interfaith Group of Windsor and Essex County, our annual Interfaith Symposium was held on October 25, 2015 at the Windsor Essex Children's Aid Society Building, 1671 Riverside Drive East in Windsor. We are very grateful for being able to use this beautiful setting and for their arrangement of very helpful and courteous security and refreshment service. There was an excellent attendance of approximately 100 people.

The theme of this year's symposium was : "Is Compassion Possible in our Troubled World." We had insightful presentations from representatives of the First Nations, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh Traditions. The presentations once again expressed a recognition of our common humanity and a respect for our diversity. A lively discussion followed, with a good interchange with the speakers, and some valuable ideas for future symposia.

On the individual level, compassion may perhaps be understood as a respectful response to the unmet needs or unrelieved pain of fellow or sister human beings. It presupposes a sense of one's own worth, so that we can approach others as they are, beyond our own needs or fears. It also requires a sense of our own vulnerability, so that we can identify with others who are suffering. Author Karen Armstrong sheds light on its social implications. She maintains that compassion, which honours the inviolable sanctity of every human being, is at the authentic core of all the world's religions, and that it is essential to human relationships, to a just economy, and to a peaceful global community.

Among the many thoughts expressed were the view that compassion is a fundamental attribute of the divine; that personal meditation and reflection are essential to deepening our awareness, freedom, and compassionate attitudes; that compassion calls for expression in personal relationships; and that it must also be embodied in the social fabric, particularly through a concern for the most marginalized and vulnerable members of society.

We are very grateful for the presenters, for those who assisted in the development and carrying out of the symposium, for those who attended, all of whom contributed to making this event a valuable experience.

A special thanks to fellow Templars, Ron Matthewman for his ongoing support and valuable contributions, to Graham Parker for his outstanding role as MC of the symposium and his continuing involvement with the Interfaith Group, and to Jane Ripley for her steady support and fulfillment of many tasks.

Some pictures from the November Investiture

I might add I enjoyed the Investiture and banquet following although the service was a bit too high church for my personal taste. On the other hand the wee tasty snacks we got served up with our drinks were excellent! Toronto take note! <grin>

Here are the pictures...



Sir Aaron Mailloux receiving his scroll with our Grand Prior, Vicar General and Prior in attendance.



Sir John Tomlinson



Dame Sue Phillips



Dame Jane Ripley



Dame Mary-Merton DCTJ



Secretary General of OSMTH Sir Dale Starkes addresses the group. He and his wife brought up copies of the Pages from the Vatican Book for us to examine for which see below.



Pages from the Vatican Book on display thanks to Sir Dale Starkes



Group photo taken after the Investiture.
Thanks to Sir Spike Bell for the photo!



Sir Aaron Mailloux and his family



Dame Jane Ripley and her sponsor Sir Norman King

Recruiting and Retaining Members By Major (ret) Roy Embury CD, GOTJ

I have been asked to do an article on recruiting and retention of members in our Order and I will attempt to do so.

First, let me start with two quotes. The first is from Gandhi: "You must be the change you expect to see in the world" and the second comes from our Brussels Declaration "aiding humanity on the pilgrimage through life."

At every opportunity I implore our members to recruit, recruit, recruit! I think everyone understands that if you are riding a bicycle and you are not pedalling, the only way you can maintain your speed is to be going down hill. The same is true of our membership- if we are not growing in numbers, then we are diminishing! I don't believe we want our bicycle to be going downhill!

I have been asked what kind of people we should be looking at to recruit and my very simple answer is "look in the mirror and the person looking back at you is the type of person you should be looking at! This is where the Gandhi quote comes in "you (and I and people like us) must be the change we expect to see in the world."

The Brussels quote suggests that the people you attempt to recruit must be of a mind to "aid humanity on the pilgrimage through life."

Every member of every Priory and Commandery should consider it their duty and responsibility to bring new members into the Order! We must not leave this to just a few keen members. I think we can all see that in our Priors, when recruiting has been left to a few, when those members step back from their involvement with the Priory many of the members they have recruited respond in a similar fashion, leaving a great vacuum in our membership lists!

Now on to retention. I believe I have shown that the people we recruit must be likeminded and buy into the declaration of "aiding humanity on the pilgrimage through life." I believe, also that the recruiting effort must be spread across the whole spectrum of the Order and not just left to the "keeners." These points will go a long way in keeping our members involved in the Order and what we stand for!

But I also believe the biggest challenge we face in retaining our membership is keeping them informed and involved in the activities of our Order. Communication is the key to keeping people informed and this newsletter does a wonderful job of ensuring that information is available for members to utilize for their own knowledge and the betterment of the Order. The leadership in each Priory must also ensure their members are kept Informed about the activities in the Priory. As an example, recently I was contacted by a member of the Order concerning their not receiving any communication from their Priory and especially information about where to send the annual oblations and how much to send. I contacted the Prior and I think we now have a resolution, but had that

contact not been made, I am certain we would have lost that member!

To recap:

RECRUIT, RECRUIT, RECRUIT!
RECRUIT LIKEMINDED PEOPLE!
RECRUIT PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOURSELF!
EVERYONE RECRUIT!

COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE!!

News from St James Priory, Toronto

At the RCMI Banquet for the September Investiture decorated by the wife of our Prior.





And this is what it looked like after we all arrived



Group Picture. You'll likely note that around 50 of our Knights & Dames did not attend the Investiture which is of course meant to be the one mandatory event that all must attend. Something to be considered as we work towards our next Investiture.



New Knights and Dames invested were James Brown, Vince Bruno, Mark Grimes, Matthew Grydziuszko, Robert Longo, Samantha McCumber along with our Grand Prior and Prior of St James.

Here we provide a wee background on a couple of our new Knights & Dame...

Mark Grimes has been an elected City Councillor for Ward 6, Etobicoke-Lakeshore since 2003. Recently, he embraced his role as City Council Champion for the 2015 Pan & Parapan Am Games. He also sits on the Board of the Hockey Hall of Fame, Chairs the Board of Governors of Exhibition Place, and is President and Owner of a thriving logistics business. His proudest professional accomplishments include building BMO Field and the Mastercard Centre for Hockey Excellence in Toronto, and setting a fund raising record for the Road Hockey to Conquer Cancer initiative. He has also received two civilian citations from the Toronto Police Service for his assistance in a crisis. Mark lives in Etobicoke with his wife and 5 children.

Robert Troy Longo is born and raised in Toronto, Canada. An award winning film director, winning the Bronze Award at The World Festival in Houston Texas for Best Dramatic TV Special. "Competing against 4100 entrées from 26 countries" Honoured at the Montreal World Film Festival and Toronto Italian Film Festival. Receiving a nomination for the Golden Sheaf Award at the Yorkton Film Festival for Best Drama over 30 minutes. Now focused on making spiritual, uplifting films in animation and live action.



H.E. The Rev. Dame Nola Crewe, Grand Chancellor receiving the Grand Croix from our Grand Prior.



Some group shots from the Banquet



and your newsletter editor got to carry the St James Priory Banner

OSMTH MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD
was awarded to Sir George Platsis

PROMOTION TO KNIGHT COMMANDEUR
was awarded to Sir Eugenio Bortoluzzi, Sir Jerry Boguslaw Jackowski and Sir Vince Nigro

A good time was had by all but I admit your newsletter editor was a touch disappointed in there not being any wee snacks with our drinks like we usually have. Our thanks to Michael Hudson of Toronto for the pictures. My thanks also to our new Dame Samantha McCumber for ensuring I got all the names correct.

The hardest working Templar in the Priory is Barbara Boles-Davis



Poland's version of Zoomer magazine.

The title of the magazine translates into "The Seniors' Voice".

Editors Note: Our thanks to Patrycja, a nurse at the Anjema Eye Institute in Chatham, for translating the article for us and here it is...

"Work with these people is an adventure that changed my life... together with them I cry and together we laugh"

Barbara Boles-Davis worked 37 yrs in the operating room as a nurse. The last 23 yrs she has traveled to third world countries for missions providing medical help to save lives. She has a Polish background. She discovered her Polish roots on her last visit to Libiaz a city in Poland. At a school in this city there is a special award "Ludwik Molato award of excellence" Her passion is photography and watercolors. (This is written on the left side of the article)

Basia Gagnon - What brought you to Libiaz?

6 yrs ago my husband and I went to Poland to find my family roots. We thought that we would only find the resting place of my grandparents, but we had my father's photo album and we knew his date of birth. The priest easily found his baptismal certificate, but I didn't know my 6 aunts' last names. When I showed his photo album to the priest's housekeeper, she recognized one of my aunts. Her name was Stanislaw Koczur a 90 yr old women that lives in Libiaz. We went to meet with her.

It turned out that I have a large family, which I didn't know. My father was 18 yrs old when the second WW started. He was a pilot with his company that was trying to escape to England through Czechoslovakia, Greece and France. During the War he was a bomber pilot with the 305 Polish divisions. General Sikorski awarded him with Virtuti Military Medal of Honor. He also was awarded by the British with a distinguished flying medal, and 4 times he received the Cross of Honor. After the war he could not return to Poland so he emigrated to Canada.

Basia Gagnon: In Libiaz you funded a special award?

At the end of the school year where my father attended Number 2 in Libiaz they select the year's best student and award them with my scholarship award.

Basia Gagnon; You have a unique way of spending your vacations?

The first time I left for a medical mission trip I was working as a nurse which a doctor convinced me to do. My friends said I was crazy. I paid for the tickets and all the necessities with my own money. I don't like to lay on the beach, I favor to help others instead. I have grown up kids and grandkids, I don't lack anything. Now is the time to help others. I like people, and after my first escapade I was addicted. My first trip was Ecuador, a gold mine where workers work without any safety. To ignite dynamite they use matches. There is no health care and many accidents. Then I went to Africa, I have been there 6 times already. Two times in Zambia, then Nepal, in Peru I was 17 times. We worked at very high altitudes 5000 meters. We were working with little kids with AIDS in Malawi. I was in the Amazon. I have had 36 missions in total. I go with International Outreach or Medical Ministry International. With the Rotary Club we were in India, where we were vaccinating against Polio. Now everywhere I go I meet someone I know. I spend two weeks working. Since the working conditions are very primitive I spend a real vacation at a nice hotel, sightseeing, talking to people and taking pictures. Photography is my hobby.

END.



Barbara is a retired registered nurse. Most of her career was spent in the operating room at St. Joseph's hospital in Hamilton. She also worked at the Portage la Prairie Hospital, in Manitoba, and

the Halifax Infirmary, now the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Complex.

Barbara became interested in the Developing World in 1994, when a colleague suggested that she try a third world medical project – thereby combining her professional skills, and her love for Latin America .

Her first mission, in 1993, was to Ecuador to a town called Zaruma.

Since then she has volunteered on 36 medical and non-medical missions in fifteen different countries:

Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Honduras, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, India, Thailand, Swaziland, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia and Nepal.

These missions included: Trauma, orthopaedics, gynaecology, plastic surgery, ophthalmology, dentistry, vaccinations and public health teaching.

She has been involved in a unique teaching program at the University Hospital of the State of Haiti in Port-au-Prince.

She has done numerous presentations to schools, hospitals, church groups, Rotary and other clubs, and on the Provincial level, to the Ontario Operating Room Nurses Association.

She also served as a member of the Board of Directors of Heart-Links, a Canadian organization dedicated to the empowerment of women in the Zana Valley of Peru. She was also a member of its Peru Projects committee, and now serves on its Work Awareness Trip Committee.

Report from her recent trip...

Good morning! Yesterday it took us twelve and a half hours to get back to Dimapur, a distance of only 289 km. Dr. Harvey says his device said we went over 29,000 bumps along the way. As going to Tuensang, it was a long, dusty, uncomfortable journey, over the worst roads I have ever encountered, and through the mountains. We had seven "border" (military or police) check points, some of which required photocopying of our passports, one with a military dog sniffing our vehicles for bombs or guns, and a flat tire on the way back (What is an MMI without a flat tire?). We were a convoy of nine vehicles, going to Tuensang, and seven vehicles returning.

The only consolation was the beautiful mountain scenery. However, these mountains saw much tragedy during WWII, as this area, between the Burmese border, and Kohima was known as "The Hump", and saw many clashes between the Japanese and the Allied Forces. Apparently, there are large numbers of plane wrecks in the jungles here.

We arrived in Dimapur last night at 7 p.m., to Dr. Konyak's home, where dinner was waiting for us. We arrived at the hotel at 9:30 last night, and all of us were too tired and dirty to even think about e-mail. The hot shower and clean hair felt so good after two weeks of bucket baths. (In Tuensang, we bathed with a third of a bucket of water.) Also, how great to have Western toilets again instead of the squatties.

All in all, it was an excellent mission with a good cohesive team. We saw 3,982 patients and did 221 surgeries, most of which were for cataracts. 1,950 people received glasses.

The grubs that you see in one of the pictures, are King Hornet larva, a real delicacy with the Naga people, and were served to us on Thursday night. Our food otherwise, was basically rice and green beans with bits of chicken or pork added for dinner.

Looking forward to samosas and other Indian delicacies.

The Naga people trace their roots to Mongolia, and are very proud of their head-hunting backgrounds. The older men were all head hunters. The younger have grandparents who were actual head hunters.

There are sixteen tribes here in Nagaland, and there are many tribal conflicts. Each day of our clinic

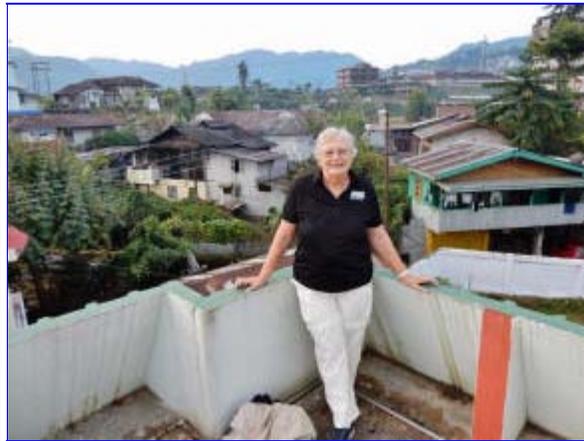
was designated to certain tribes.

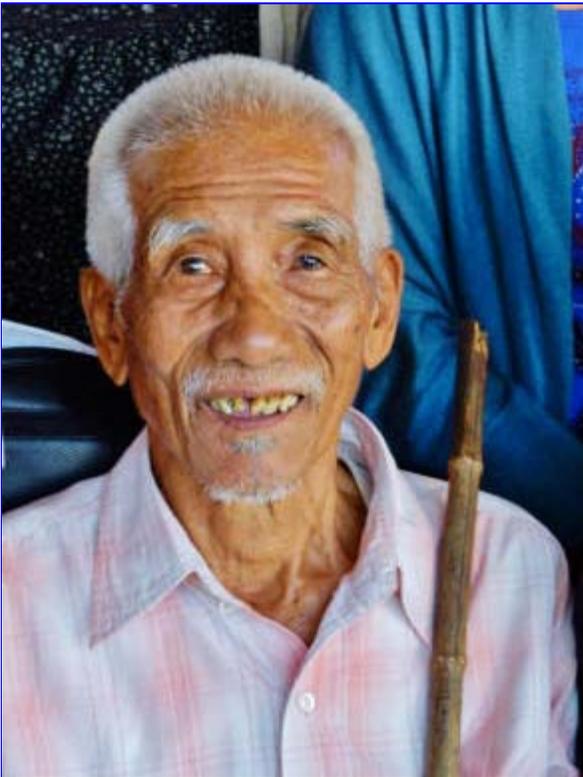
We also had police protection. One of the pictures shows me with two female police and one of our surgeons.

Today we leave for Calcutta and Delhi, where most of us are starting one week tours. Will keep you posted!

Miss you all and love you....Barbara

And here are some pictures...









Human Trafficking

Chev Kim Derry and our new Chev James Brown led an international Conference on Human Trafficking. Our St James Priory was a Corporate Sponsor. And we are planning another large Human Trafficking Conference in Toronto in 2016.

The attendees are from Africa, Europe, South Asia, US and Canada, (70 attendees). Despite that Kim and Jim cover the cost personally as the summit represent three years of work towards next year's event where we will kick off the global research epicenter against human trafficking. This kickoff in 2016 will (held in Toronto) the GREAT center is now a registered non profit organization with charitable status being considered by the Canadian government. And St James Priory is a main partner in this.

For more information visit <http://www.togetherletsstoptraffick.org/index.html>

We donated \$4000.00 to this worthy cause.

OSMTH at the United Nations



Our thanks to Sir George Platsis of Toronto for supplying this pdf presentation of our work at the UN which can be downloaded at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/images/2015OSMTHUN.pdf>

Faithkeepers the Movie (2016) Promo

Faithkeepers is an upcoming documentary film about the violent persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East.

The film features exclusive footage and testimonials of Christians, Baha'i, Yazidis, Jews, and other minority refugees, and a historical context of the persecution in the region.

Due to be released next year, the film also follows the story of a 24-year-old Christian student from North Carolina on her journey of understanding, discovery and solidarity with persecuted brothers and sisters in the Middle East.

Faithkeepers – the movie and the movement – will awaken, enlighten and inspire all people of faith to stand up and take action.

The "reality" of our brother and sister Christians at Risk in the Middle East. In spite of torture, dungeons and swords they Keep their Faith. May Our Lord bless and protect them! May we continue to support them by supporting the Jerusalem Mite.

nnDnn

COL (Ret.) Robert J. Bateman, GCTJ, GMTJ
Chief of Mission OSMTH U.N. Delegation, New York

See the trailer at: <https://youtu.be/ByZbenlX8l8>

For more information visit: <http://tinyurl.com/ooyul4h>



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please join us January 11th at The Reilly Group of Companies head office on the second floor, for our annual general meeting. Please RSVP to sm@trgoc.com by January 4th 2016



JANUARY 11TH 2015 7:00PM

3434 DUNDAS ST. W. TORONTO ON M6S 2S1



COCKTAILS
AT LONG BAR RCMI

DEC 14
6PM CASH BAR

CHRISTMAS CHEER

426 UNIVERSITY AVE, TORONTO ON M5G 1S9

**DRESS CODE IN AFFECT: BUSINESS CASUAL
PLEASE RSVP TO SM@TRGOC.COM BY DEC 8TH 2015**

THE TEMPLAR BALL

AT FOUNTAIN BLUE

■ HOLD ■ THE ■ DATE ■ HOLD ■ THE ■ DATE ■

THE ANNUAL TEMPLAR BALL WILL BE HELD AT FOUNTAIN BLUE ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27TH 2016 SO HOLD THE DATE. IF YOU WISH TO RSVP AHEAD OF TIME PLEASE SEND YOUR RSVP TO SM@TRGOC.COM

200 PRINCES' BLVD TORONTO, ON M6K3C3
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27TH 2016 HOLD THE DATE

News from the Priory of Simon Peter, Ottawa

The priory has had a busy time of it since last report on our local charitable activities, and the reports we get from our KIVA loans to women entrepreneurs in developing countries continue to impress us very much.

We have consolidated our operation with the Cornerstone women's shelter following our third Saturday lunch, and will begin the New Year very fittingly by serving them again on January 31. We appear to have hit their taste buds all right, and have received a number of compliments on the food. So far, we have been serving lasagna created from Chev Frank Ritchie's mother's recipe, and that is going down so well (no pun intended!) that we are thinking of asking whether our ladies would like a little variety. We suspect that because we lunch them only four times a year that we may be better to stay with what we know best, but will undertake a client survey in January.

The Aphasia Centre of Ottawa, for whom we do some summer fund-raising, just celebrated its 25th anniversary, and we have congratulated them on their remarkable achievement. They began operating in a kind of indefinite space between medical and social treatment and care of persons who suffer from aphasia because of a stroke, and have now expanded their services to include persons whose aphasia stems from long-term causes rather than a single catastrophic incident. Their unique combination of group and individual therapy, combined with physiotherapy to increase the confidence with which clients can face their difficult lifestyles, has been recognized by the provincial health system as an ongoing function, meaning that the fund-raising that we assist with can go to expanding and enriching services and providing for those who cannot afford the cost of therapeutic programs.

We are still defining the areas where we can help out at the Perley-Rideau Veterans' Health Centre, where we sponsor a unit. During the summer we assisted with BBQs and met some wonderful people, and are looking forward to doing much of the same, but translated for winter weather, this Christmas season and in the New Year. We are all hoping for better luck with colds and flu than we had last winter, when the centre was out-of-bounds to volunteers for a great deal of the time while the staff spent their time and energy combating various outbreaks of respiratory diseases and the flu. The people living at the Perley are often well into their 80's and many are in frail health, so that any form of communicable disease needs to be handled resolutely and very, very carefully. The Perley staff do a wonderful job, and we of course follow instructions to the letter.

Hockey Knights in Canada has begun to come into its own this fall. We have had a request from the Hamlet of Fort Liard, Northwest Territories, for equipment to supplement what they are able to find locally in support of a junior hockey league this winter. Chev Frank Garbutt is our senior Hockey Knight; he organized a remarkable collection of equipment from Toronto, stopping there with a truck for three pickups with his wife, Chevse Nicole Lassaline, on their way home from the Convent and Investiture in Windsor. He and the Prior, Chev Bill Megill, made a truck trip to Napanee for another load, and Frank, with Chev Brock Heilman, are sorting out what to send up north as this is being

written.

We send our material to a warehouse found for us in Edmonton by Chev Wes Fader of the Edmonton Commandery, where local transport picks it up for movement further north, and one of the stops in Toronto was to collect equipment from Chev Stuart Ross. We are very grateful indeed for such support, and so I'm sure are the kids in the Beaufort Delta region of the Northwest Territories, particularly those in the Hamlet of Uluhaktok (formerly Holman), from whom we received a very nice note of thanks just recently.

We will eventually get more pictures into our reports, but at the moment are busy doing the necessary and writing the reports themselves. Please be patient with us; it's so good to be able to do someone else good, and we often forget to take the pictures that will let us make a better story for you. But we'll get better.

We plan to carry on all these activities next year, and are of course looking for more people to work with us so that we do not burn out the players. We generally hold our Convent and Investiture on the last Saturday in April, but since that will be the day before Battle of the Atlantic Sunday in 2016, we are now looking at May 7. We will keep you advised.

Pls accept the best wishes of the Prior, Priory Council, Knights and Dames of the Priory of Simon Peter for peace in our troubled world, for an end to brutal unthinking violence, for security of the person and the spirit, and particularly for a very Merry Christmas and a most Happy New Year. And until we have some more blessed action to write to you about, may God hold you and those whom you love in the palm of His hand.

Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed tuo nomine da Gloriam
Chev William K. Megill
Prior, Priory of Simon Peter

News from the Commandry of Edmonton

We got a brief comment in to say not a lot happened this quarter but they did take part in the regular hope mission efforts. A Xmas event is planned for January and the annual investiture for May. On behalf of the Commander I wish all the Edmonton Knights and Dames a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Chaplain's Corner

From Archdeacon Ron Matthewman, Vicar General of OSMTH-I

Saturday Prayers
Week-end of November 14th – 15th 2015

In Memory of
His Excellency Major General Robert Disney
Grand Prior XV of The United States of America.
Past Grand Commander of OSMTH-I

Passed away on Friday, November 6th 2015.

Memorial Service held in Englewood, Florida, USA.
Thursday, November 12th 2015

Burial to take place in Arlington Cemetery at a later date

Not Unto Us, O Lord, Not Unto Us, But To Thy Name Be the Glory

We give thanks for his life, as we mourn his death and pray for his wife Sheila and family in their bereavement.

May he rest in peace – and rise in glory.

They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old,
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them

Go forth Christian Soul out of this world,
On the great adventure in the world beyond.
Go forth in the Name of God the Father who created thee;
In name of His Son Jesus Christ who redeemed thee;
In the name of the Holy Spirit who sanctifieth thee.
May His holy Angels guard and protect thee,
and may your soul rest in peace in the paradise of God.

The strife is o'er, the battle done; now is the victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung, Alleluia. Amen.

Biography

In Brief

Major-General Robert Charles George Disney, Army of the United States, of Rotonda, Florida, died on November 6, 2015 of complications surrounding brain cancer. He is survived by his wife, Sheila, his daughters Kathryn, Barbara, Patricia and Kimberly; their mother, Yvette, their 8 grandchildren, Christopher, Elizabeth, Andrew, Connor, Ryan, Charlotte, Sophie, and Logan, his step-son Jason, his sons-in-law, Jack and Shane, nephews Paul and Mark and brother, Christopher.

General Disney was born in British India in 1936. He was the son of Robert and Evelyn Disney. His father was a Superintendent of the British Colonial Police in India. In 1947, when ethnic rioting and killings consumed India as it split into Muslim Pakistan and Hindu India, Robert, his mother and brother left for England. In 1954, Robert left the UK for Canada and the US. At 19 he joined the US Army as a private.

Bob served a full career and was a highly decorated Vietnam Veteran. He was a paratroop officer with both the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions and later, as an Army Ranger and Green Beret. His decorations include the Silver Star, numerous Bronze Stars and Purple Hearts. The Silver Star was awarded for gallantry when he single-handedly crawled into a Viet Cong tunnel and convinced five VC to surrender.

His Army career, included several years as a NY Army National Guard officer.

He entered the private security industry and held the CSO positions at a variety of companies in New York, to include ITT, Drexel-Burnham-Lambert and Chase.

In 2002 Bob and Sheila moved to Rotonda West, FL where he founded Sigma International Holdings, Inc., an International Private Security Advisory Company.

Bob joined the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, August 5th, 1995. He was later elected to the Office of Prior of St. Bernard de Clairvaux in New Orleans, LA. Bob went on to become the Grand Prior of the USA and the Grand Commander of the Order.

General Disney was devoted to his family and a deeply spiritual man. When told of the malignant nature of the cancer that would ultimately take his life, he said, "I can't fix this; the doctors can't; the only way to deal with it is to leave it in God's hands". May he Rest in Peace.



Christmas 2015

Message from The Vicar General of OSMTH-I Archdeacon Ron Matthewman

How far is it to Bethlehem?

This year, as in many years past, Christmas comes to us in a very mixed-up world of war, fear, torment, terrorism, inhumanity, and downright hatred. But in the midst of all of that, Christmas 2015 will come, and needs to come, to express;

THE LOVE OF GOD, THE PEACE OF CHRIST, AND HOPE FOR THE WORLD.

Let the Light of Christ shine in and around your home that all may know you are of God.

Christmas is a religious event, an historical event, a faith event.

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT YOU.

The coming of Christ into your heart, mind and soul.

Christmas is about how you receive and express the Christ child.

That is what Christmas is all about, YOU with CHRIST in your life.

The great prophet Isaiah, many centuries ago, told the world

BEHOLD, CHRIST IS TO BE BORN

on the Eve of the first Christmas, the Christmas Angel said to the Shepherds BEHOLD I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

That word "BEHOLD" means "BE AWARE"

Be aware of what God has done in history, be aware of what God is doing in our time

BE AWARE OF WHAT GOD IS DOING IN, AND FOR AND THROUGH YOU.

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT YOU - YOUR SALVATION - THE BIRTH OF CHRIST IN YOUR LIFE

Yes, celebrate a Happy, Holy, Christmas Festival in your home, in your Church, in your Community and let your thoughts and actions penetrate into the world.

Christmas never ends, but when the days surrounding the 25th of December are over take time to measure what Christmas means to you in your daily living.

Remember the Christ child comes to you, with a message, pass the message on and feel the effects of Christmas every day.

HOW FAR IS IT TO BETHLEHEM? not very far, it's right where you are!

Grand Chancellors Corner

At the Investiture Banquet in Toronto I was reminded of the unsung non-member heroes/heroines of our Order. The set up and floral centrepieces were the results of the talented Anna Migliore, wife of the Prior. At every social event she turns out to set-up and decorate and look after the timing and staff and registrations making the event a seamless whole.

And she isn't the only one: in Edmonton it is the wife of the Prior who keeps tabs on everyone, ensuring that a good time is had by all.

So this is just a reminder that we are blessed with spouses who make Templar events even more successful.

Hats off, three cheers and a toast to all of them.

Advent, the “New Year” for Christians, falls on the same weekend as Black Friday, Saturday and Sunday and Cyber Monday . . . the great sales events dreamed up to sentimentalize, trivialize and retailize the birth of Christ into the conspicuous consumption extravaganza that is the hallmark of the 21st century Santa’s Christmas.

As an antidote, I have been thinking about what Templars quietly do on a very regular basis, making life better for their neighbours: whether near or far.

In Windsor, the Priory has a variety of ways of raising money from adding on an extra few dollars to every dinner to baking and selling cookie trays at Christmas. But raising money isn’t the only thing they are up . . . there is also cooking dinners and collecting those toiletries you get in hotels, for the women needing shelter from abusive situations that is one of their great charities.

In Ottawa they are justly famous for their Hockey Knights . . . collecting gently used hockey gear to equip young players in the far (VERY far) north. And in months with 5 weekends, they are in the kitchen cooking up a storm to ensure full stomachs on their cold streets.

Toronto Templars hound their gymns and eye doctors for space to put out boxes for used shoes and outdated glasses which then go to St James Cathedral’s programme for the homeless.

Of course, everyone works at raising funds for major commitments, like the Jordan River project, but it is the work in our own communities that often provide the greatest satisfaction. And the various priories co-operate in helping each other out. So next time, your son or daughter grows out of their skates or pads: set them aside. Someone in your priory is collecting them for a future visit from Ottawa. And, don’t leave the shampoo or soap behind in your hotel room. You’ve paid for it and someone in Windsor will have a happier day if you bring it home. Even if your gymn doesn’t have a box for shoes for folks in your community, set your own aside (whatever size or style) because next time a Torontonionian is in town they’ll make sure they get to a footsore soul.

Have a very Merry Christmas and know that what you do for others provides far more satisfaction than any “big deal” of all those black shopping days.

International News on the work of OSMTH



See the many letters of condolences from our International order at:

<http://www.osmth.org/news>

Cologne, Germany Friday 2 October 2015.



Templars led by Scots at Cologne International Investiture

The Grand Magistral Council of OSMTH has met in Cologne, Germany to discuss the plight of Christians at risk. The meeting heard heart-breaking and passionate presentations from member of OSMTH, Ms. Juliana Taimoorzy of the Iraqi Christian Relief Council, who talked of the ongoing attacks on, and forced slavery of, minority Christians in the Middle East. She spoke powerfully on behalf of the Assyrian (also known as Chaldean and Syriac) Christians in the region who are persecuted for their faith and ethnicity. "The fact that this ancient community is on the verge of extinction should move the entire world to action now!" As an NGO connected to the United Nations, OSMTH stands up for human rights and all efforts to support those in need today.

OSMTH Grand Master, Brig. General Patrick Rea, further highlighted the work of OSMTH in protecting Christians at risk by explaining the ongoing work of OSMTH and its members. He mentioned the partner NGOs of OSMTH includes The Philos Project, which promotes positive Christian engagement in the Middle East, and then expanded on OSMTH's relationships with the Coptic Church, Armenian Church, the Roman Catholic Church, Lutheran Church, Sufi Muslims, and Syriac Christians.

OSMTH (Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem) is a Non-Governmental organization (NGO), in special consultative status with United Nations ECOSOC, and registered in Geneva, Switzerland. OSMTH maintains missions at the UN in New York City, Geneva and Vienna, and is also a board member of the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO) and a member of the International Peace Bureau. OSMTH fully endorses the United Nations Human Rights Declaration.

OSMTH RESOLUTION NR 12 OF 2015
[Cologne, Germany, October 1 to 3 in 2015]

RESOLUTION REGARDING EXTRAORDINARY ISSUES CHALLENGING BOTH OUR ORDER AND
THE WORLD IN 2015

WHEREAS, in October of 2015 the Grand Magistral Council of OSMTH, meeting in Cologne in Germany, has been petitioned by numerous organizational and international bodies to review three issues which pose grave threats to the Christian Faith, to the stability of both the Middle East and, in the near term, possibly major parts of Europe; and which, regrettably, bring back past practices of people against peoples of the most evil type; and

WHEREAS, these practices are challenging the best planning of the European Union, the United Nations, many of the governments of the Middle East and the Faiths of the Sons of Abraham; and

WHEREAS, the first of these challenges involves the assault upon the cultural and religious heritage of many of the great religions of the world, and in particular of the Christian Faith; and

- WHEREAS, what was believed in 2001 to be an isolated attack by the Taliban on the Buddhist sculptures of the Buddhas of Bamiyan has widened into a fierce assault against the heritage of many faiths; and
- WHEREAS, these attacks have continued unabated with ever growing intensity by Islamist extremists, examples of which are Christian cultural heritage sites in Kosovo and Methohja, followed by an "ISIS" DAESH campaign to exterminate the Christian presence in all parts of Iraq and Syria under their control, including churches in Mosul and the Christian church of the Virgin Mary in Syria; and
- WHEREAS, DAESH, in their uncivilized rage, further focused on Muslim historic and cultural sites, including the Muslim Sufi sites such as the destruction of the tombs of the Sufi Saints in the Aleppo countryside; and carried out the unspeakable and barbaric acts of pillaging for profit, or otherwise demolishing, one of the most historic collections of cultural and religious artifacts in Syria and the murder of the Syrian Antiquities Director Khaled al Asaad; and
- WHEREAS, DAESH has taken all opportunities to pillage synagogues and Jewish religious artifacts within their reach; and
- WHEREAS, many of these sites are on the list of World Heritage in Danger assembled by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and
- WHEREAS, the Grand Priors of OSMTH strongly believe that such acts of destruction are abhorrent, unacceptable in a civilized world, and must be viewed as direct threats against all, or parts, of the Great Religions of the world; and that such activities must be made public and opposed and that delegations from this Order should raise awareness of this threat by visiting such sites, as and when appropriate and feasible; and

WHEREAS, a second threat to the very existence of Christianity has been defined by Pope Francis of the Roman Catholic Church, during a recent speech in August to a large assemblage in South America, when he said: "Today we are dismayed to see how, in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world, many of our brothers and sisters are persecuted, tortured and killed for their faith in Jesus" He continued, "In this third world war, waged piece-meal, which we are now experiencing; a form of genocide is taking place"; and

- WHEREAS, this most barbaric act - genocide - has occurred throughout history, on every continent and against many peoples; and

- WHEREAS, amongst the Christians the martyred people of Armenia stand foremost in our minds and in our prayers; and
- WHEREAS, the Grand Magistral Council of OSMTH firmly believes that, if this "third world war" is beginning and Christian peoples with their belief are at risk of extermination, we must raise our voices in immediate opposition to this potential tragedy and again, through international forums and the faithful of all religions of the world, call on humanity to confront and stop such a horrible action; and

WHEREAS, these horrible occurrences are now creating a third challenge, as whole populations of peoples from the Middle East, which include both Christians and Muslims, are forced to flee in huge numbers, to Europe including countries ranging from Russia to the United Kingdom; and

- WHEREAS, this challenge to our common humanity, driven by barbaric and genocidal acts, must be vigorously met and turned back; and
- WHEREAS, the Grand Priors of OSMTH willingly accept the need to assist in undertaking advocacy and providing humanitarian relief to alleviate this struggle, following the guidance of the great religious leaders of the Eastern and Western Churches; and
- WHEREAS, the Protestant Regional Churches in Germany, our host country for this meeting, remind us of Psalm 36:7 which states: "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings!"; and
- WHEREAS, to that end we join with the other Sons of Abraham and their leadership, such as the King of Jordan, in seeking to develop a structure that will allow all displaced Christians and others, who desire to return to their historic homes in the Middle East, a future opportunity to do so with dignity and happiness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. All OSMTH representatives at the United Nations and other international forums be informed of this policy statement of the Grand Magistral Council; and
2. The Office holders of OSMTH are instructed to immediately begin working, in the interests of peace building, with Governments, Christian Churches, other faith organizations and NGOs for the implementation of such advocacy and humanitarian relief and for the development of a "Return Home" policy for Middle Eastern Christians.

Chevalier Dr Marcel de Picciotto, Grand Commander
Chevalier Dale Starkes, Secretary General

IDC Presses Lawmakers to pass Genocide Resolution
Support Swells on Capitol Hill to Help Christians

Washington — Advocates from In Defense of Christians (IDC) were on Capitol Hill Thursday seeking support for a genocide resolution, meeting with over 250 Congressional offices in a single day.

"For the first time since ISIS the beleaguered Christians of Iraq from their homes and villages, they have hope that the U.S. government is prepared to act to help them," said IDC Executive Director Kirsten Evans.

IDC urges Congress to bring the genocide resolution to a swift vote.

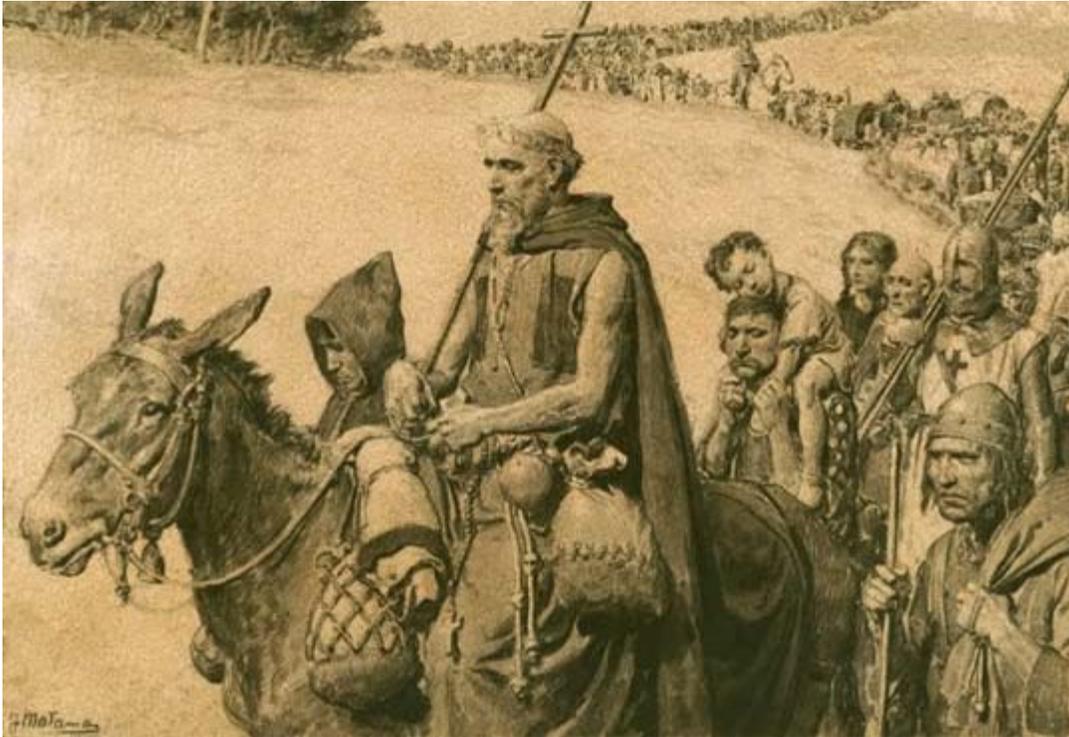
IDC also heard from twenty-five Members of Congress who spoke to IDC's supporters gathered in Washington, D.C. for IDC's inaugural National Leadership Convention to "mobilize America for the Christians of the Middle East." Members commended IDC for its work and urged diaspora Middle East Christians and other Americans to support its work and initiatives.

More than 120 IDC state chapter leaders from across America, in an unprecedented show of unified political action on behalf of the Christians of the Middle East, pressed lawmakers to support Congressman Jeff Fortenberry's (R-NE) genocide resolution, H. Con Res 75. The resolution decries the genocide against Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq and Syria. IDC is a non-partisan organization committed to the protection and preservation of Christians in the Middle East.

In Defense of Christians (IDC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to the preservation and protection of Christians in the Middle East. IDC envisions a Middle East in which the human rights of every individual are protected and respected regardless of religious creed, and in which the ancient and diverse Christian communities of the Middle East can coexist and thrive peacefully in their native lands. IDC knows that the centuries old existence of Christianity in the Middle East serves as leaven in a complex and ever-changing region of the world. Christianity's enduring presence in Middle Eastern societies is an agent of peace, development, diversity, and tolerance, bringing greater stability to the region and bridging cultural divides between the East and West.

<http://www.indefenseofchristians.net/>

From Peter Smith in the Scottish Review history section



In 1096 Peter the Hermit, a priest from Amiens, led many thousands of poor and unarmed ordinary people (estimates vary from 40,000 to 100,000 depending on who you read) across Europe with the intention of liberating Jerusalem from the occupying Muslims. They were the first and largest single group to set off on what became the First Crusade, answering the call of Pope Urban II, and they were joined later by aristocrats and their knights from France, Germany and Italy.

This 'People's Crusade' was not only engaged on a mission to restore Christian dominance to the Holy Land, they were taking the extraordinary opportunity to escape grinding poverty, deadly disease and the endless wars that ravaged medieval Europe. As it turns out their great romantic adventure ended in catastrophe with most of them were killed, predictably, by a Muslim army at the Battle of Civetot.

Interestingly, the people's crusade travelled east through the Kingdom of Hungary, Greece and Constantinople where the political and religious leaders, bound by the Pope's declaration, had to give food and shelter to the penniless and starving crusaders. This did not go well as there were so many

groups of these desperate people camping around south-eastern Europe and Asia Minor, stealing and pillaging their way across the countryside and generally causing havoc in what were usually well-ordered kingdoms.

It was all Peter could do to negotiate reasonable transit agreements that allowed his followers to pass through on their way to Syria, their initial destination.

Today we see a similar vast movement of people in Europe, escaping war, economic collapse and disease. This time they are coming in the opposite direction, from east to west but in the process they are creating the same rancorous upheaval as in 1096. We are shocked by multiple deaths in the Aegean and Mediterranean seas, watch Greek Islands being overwhelmed by refugees at a time of economic crisis, witness Hungary in chaos with thousands using whatever means they can find to get to the Austrian border.

As usual we must endure fear and loathing in Europe's capitals as governments struggle to find ways of dealing with the crisis at a time when many European citizens are remembering just how much they dislike foreigners. And in Istanbul, the government secures its borders with Syria and Iraq while using the situation to attack the Kurdish people in each country, greatly exacerbating an already catastrophic situation.

We can say, in the midst of all the carnage, that while history repeats itself on this occasion it is doing so in reverse over a period of just less than a thousand years. In 1096 war, famine and disease drove thousands to take the opportunity to go east. Now, in 2015, war, famine and disease is driving thousands westward, retracing the steps of the people's crusade.

We don't seem to be making much progress, do we?

FROM: SOVEREIGN LEADERSHIP OF GRAND PRIORY OF GREECE

TO: ALL OFFICIALS OF INTERNATIONAL ORDER ALL OFFICIALS OF GRAND PRIORY OF GREECE

DAILY ORDER FOR OF THE LEADERSHIP OF GRAND PRIORY OF GREECE ABOUT THE DEATH OF EX GRAND COMMANDER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER BOTHER ROBERT DISNEY

DAILY ORDER
Of the 7th November 2015

MOURNING

Today, Saturday 07 Νοεμβρίου 2015

With great grief we were informed by Grand Master of the International Order, Brigadier Dr. Patrick Rea

About the passing away of the ex - Grand Commander of the International Order,
Brigadier ROBERT DISNEY

As soon as Grand National Commander was informed, he called to extraordinary session the Leadership of Grand Council of Grand Priory of Greece, which convened and took the following decision :

DECISION OF LEADERSHIP OF GRAND COUNCIL OF
7TH NOVEMBER 2015

About the sad loss of our beloved Brother Bob and ex Grand Commander
we decided the following :

1.- We declare ten days mourning in all Grand Priory of Greece and in its Mentories in Cyprus,

Armenia, Egypt, Lebanon from the 7th up to the 17th of November 2015.

2.- That the flags at our National Grand Headquarters in Athens, fly low.

3.- That all Grand Priory's events at its whole Geographical Territory, from 07 up to 17 November 2015, will be postponed.

4.- That a wreath of laurel leaves at our beloved Brother's monument, will be laid on the name of Grand Priory of Greece.

5.- That a Letter of Condolence will be sent to his wife, and our beloved Sister Sheila.

6.- That the announcement of the Mourning and our Daily Order of Grand Priory of Greece, will be posted at Grand Priory's site for ten days.

7.- And at last, that a memorial service on our Brother Bob's memory, will take place during prayers at our Grand National Headquarters of Athens, by Grand Chaplain and the Chaplains of Athens and Piraeus during the meeting of Plenary Session of month November 2015, as well as, during all meetings of November, of all Commanderies of Grand Priory of Greece, to be kept of one minute of silence in our Brother's memory.

Fraternal Greetings

Grand Prior II
Of Grand Priory of Greece
Dr. Chev. Paul Tsolakian GCTJ

Grand Priory of England & Wales Beaucéant October 2015

Got in a copy of this newsletter which you can download at:

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

I might add in this newsletter is a good report on our OSMTH meeting in Germany.

Canon Andrew White

The Vicar of Baghdad and the lost Christians of Iraq

The former 'Vicar of Baghdad', Canon Andrew White, is returning to "his people" in the Middle East today as he continues his epic fight for peace and reconciliation in the region.

The former Vicar of Baghdad was forced to leave Iraq a year ago as Daesh – the self-proclaimed Islamic State, or ISIL – marched towards the capital. But he has never abandoned the people.

His Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East (FRRME) continues to provide support for Christians in Iraq – and also for the last remaining Jews in the country; now numbering just six.

And the number of Christians in the country is also dwindling.

Canon White returns to Iraq occasionally to oversee the work; but the bulk of his time now is spent looking after Iraqi Christian refugees who have made a new, temporary, home in Jordan.

He has spent the past two weeks in the UK promoting his new book, My Journey So Far. His impressive track record in reconciliation work is hinted at through the public endorsements the book has received.

The Chief Rabbi of Norway describes White as "a messenger of divine peace in the world". The Grand Ayatollah of Khadameer says he is "the spiritual leader of all of us [and] has stood with us our been our supporter and defender for nearly two decades." And Canon J John says that White's "Rollercoaster of a journey . . . will infuse faith, hope and love."

In the past week, Andrew White has given over 80 interviews to television, radio, newspaper and magazine journalists. ACNS caught up with him at Guildford Cathedral after he preached at a service for Remembrance Sunday – the day Britain and other Commonwealth countries pay tribute to members of the armed forces who were killed in war.

For the past 13 years, White had spent Remembrance Sunday in war zones, he told the congregation, so it was a strange experience to mark the occasion in a peaceful Guildford.

Soldiers from Two Troop of the 579 Squadron 101 Engineer Regiment – the Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Search team (bomb squad) – took part in the service by firing a volley of shots to mark the beginning and end of a two-minute silence.

White paid tribute to them, and their comrades. “They are not about war,” he said in his sermon, “they are about fighting for peace. . . I am also involved in that passionate fight to find peace and wholeness and security; to bring healing to a broken world. And that is what our military are also trying to do.”

Speaking of the Iraqi refugees in Jordan, he said “They do not know what will happen to them tomorrow. They do not know what their future holds. What we do is assure them that we will not stop fighting for them to know peace.”

Before the service, the Archdeacon of Guildford, the Ven Stuart Beake, reminded Canon White of their time together at Coventry Cathedral’s international centre for reconciliation. They had been discussing prayer requests and Canon White said: “I need some more Kalashnikovs!”

To laughter from the cathedral congregation, Canon White said: “It shows the place that I come from.”

He is a passionate believer in bringing together people who profoundly disagree with each other. And this aspect of his work dominated many of the media interviews of the past week. He had invited some of the leaders of Daesh to have dinner with him. “It seemed the right thing to do, you meet, you eat,” he said.

But the leaders told him that they would come for dinner but that they would chop his head off afterwards. “So I didn’t push it any further,” he said. “My head might not be perfect, but at least it works!”

That experience, and the total depravity of violence committed by Daesh against Christians and others they oppose has persuaded him that the advance of Daesh can’t be resolved through dialogue.

“They are quite a long term threat and there is no imminent disappearance of them,” he said in an interview in the Cathedral’s refectory, “The only way that they can be overcome on the ground is by military presence on the ground.

“I also know that there is nothing the Iraqis can do themselves. And I have very little faith in anything the Arab world can do as well.”

Canon White said that it was hard for him, as a peacebuilder, to make this argument, but he called on Western governments to increase their military intervention on the ground – something for which he recognised there was no political will for.

“People are so concerned about how things are seen in their own country; and the fact is you could never get support for an on-the-ground presence in America or in the UK.”

Following the Iraq war, many Iraqis resented the ongoing presence of Allied troops in the country, but, Canon White said, “they were also against the fact that the troops all pulled out and left them. That was the one thing that gave them some stability; because even though the troops were not on the ground and obvious; they were in the background and if anything went wrong they would go out into the fore.

“But now there is nobody there. The Iraqis have said there is no way they can do this on their own.

They need help.” It is an issue that White raises with governments and politicians “all the time,” he said – the only time he sounded weary during the interview – “all the time. Several times this last week. Not today or yesterday, but most of the time.”

Despite the serious and desperate nature of his work, Canon White has kept a very cheeky humour.

As he signed copies of his book in the Cathedral bookshop, one lady tells him that she has read all of his other books. “You haven’t read my first book. It was about the use of trichloroethane in caesarean sections,” Canon White, a former anaesthetist, said.

And when another lady tells him “I’m sure you’re a living saint,” he replies: “Look, I’ll be honest with you,” and then pauses before saying: “Yes. Yes, I am!”, adding: “we all are.”

One of the biggest motivators is his love and concern for children and young people. As he signs copies of his book he hands out small olive wood crosses to young people who are there with their parents. “This was made by my friend in Bethlehem,” he tells an eager young girl. “He is a carpenter called Joseph.” And he encourages the girl to take it to her school and show it to all her friends.

“I have always tried to be joyful with whoever and in whatever,” Canon White says. “I always try and make sure that I keep happy, even in the midst of the most terrible times I have always been able to laugh.

“I have always been able to talk with little...” and as we speak, right on cue, we are interrupted by a young girl and her mother who want to say goodbye before they leave, “...little girls like Esther” – They had only met briefly while he signed her mother’s book and as he gave her a cross; but he remembered her name as she came over with a beaming smile on her face. “Don’t forget to take your cross to school,” he said as she gave him a goodbye hug.

“That’s the joy of life,” he said. “You have got to, in the midst of war and terror, you have to look for joy. People often say to me, ‘how do you keep going?’ and I honestly say ‘I keep going for my children.’ When I say ‘my children’ I don’t mean my boys, I mean the children that I am working with, the children who part of our community, and even little children like Esther.”

Through his foundation, Canon Andrew White is currently providing support for up to 500 Christian families in Jordan, providing food, medicine, accommodation and education. And on the education side, he is negotiating with the Iraqi Ministry of Education so that education provided to Iraqi refugees outside the country can receive accreditation. This will enable the education to go on people’s official education record so that it can count when they are eventually able to return to Iraq.

When asked what drives him, Canon White says he “hopes it has something to do with God!”

He continues: “I am very passionate, and very radical and very ruthless; and my motto is don’t take care – take risks. And that is what I do.”

Canon White continues to work on interfaith dialogue and peace building between Christians, Jews and Muslims in Israel and Palestine; but the biggest call on his time now is as pastor to the refugee community in Jordan. He spends around two weeks a month in Jordan, one in Israel and Palestine, and another in the UK or USA.

And he isn’t put off by major catastrophes such as the rise of Daesh.

I last interviewed Andrew White exactly three years ago, to the day. Justin Welby was just about to be named as the next Archbishop of Canterbury and I wanted White’s take on it. He was delighted, of course, and was looking forward to inviting the new Archbishop to visit St George’s Cathedral in Baghdad – a move which, just three years on, currently seems impossible.

I put to Canon White that it must be hard to remain motivated when so much of his ministry has crumbled away.

“The fact is, that is the truth,” he said. “So much of what I have worked for has disappeared; but so

much has remained. The people are still there doing the work. The numbers have come down from 6,500 in Baghdad. There were only 40 in church last week in Baghdad; but my community in Jordan . . . we are still providing for the needs of the people even in places of war.”

The refugee community “isn’t Episcopal or Anglican,” he says. “My community has given up saying we are Chaldean, Orthodox, Episcopal, Catholic. They are Christian. It is a Christian community.

“That is very important. It is a terrible thing to say the only real serious ecumenical relationships I have ever seen are as a result of this terrible persecution. Denominations come tumbling down.”

And while Canon Andrew White has a team on the ground doing the work; and a larger team of international supporters through his Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East, he needs the wider church to help: “We need the church to do just two things: to pray for peace and pay for peace.

“We need prayer and we need practical help. We can’t do this work with nothing. We need more than just a cup of tea from a church after the service.

“We need prayer for protection; we need prayer for perseverance, so we can keep going; we need prayer for provision, so we can provide for the needs of the people; and we need prayer for peace: Four Ps for peace: Protection, Perseverance, Provision and Peace.”
END.

Each week we post a selection of recent online items where you can find out about the latest developments in the countries in which the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East operates – Iraq, Jordan, Israel / Palestine.

This week’s Media Summary features news about about the plight of Christians in Iraq; the threat of ISIS in Jordan; the international boycott of Israeli goods; and Canon Andrew White in the media:

For example under Iraq we read...

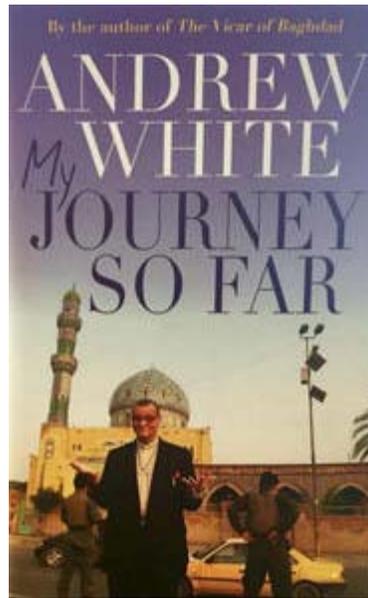
The dwindling Christian population of the Middle East could vanish completely within a decade unless the global community intervenes, say alarmed aid groups who say followers of the Bible are being killed, driven from their land or forced to renounce their faith at an unprecedented pace.

The world has largely stood by as a dangerous tide of intolerance has washed over the region, according to a new study by the international Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need. The study includes disturbing data about the plunging numbers of Christians in the part of the world that gave birth to the faith, and makes a dire prediction of what could happen.

“It’s an answer that depends on the response of the world,” Edward Clancy, director of outreach for the New York-based Aid to the Church in Need, told FoxNews.com. “What response is there going to be toward us if we act?”

“Last Christmas was the first time that bells did not ring out in the city of Mosul in 2000 years. I think that speaks to the reality that hundreds of thousands of Christian families are living on the edge of extinction.”

- Elijah Brown, 21st Century Wilberforce



His book can be purchased at:

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01619W9B4/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?ie=UTF8&btkr=1>

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

International News

Paris attacks: A new type of terrorism?

The scale of the near-simultaneous bombings and shootings in Paris has left France reeling in shock.

With nearly 130 people dead, along with eight suicide bombers, it is Europe's worst terrorist attack since the 2004 Madrid train bombings.

It raises new, pressing questions about the ability of Western security forces to prevent such random carnage.

French President Francois Hollande called it an "act of war" organised by Islamic State (IS) militants.

There are many possible implications coming out of this attack which includes the open borders of the EU.

Turkish warplanes have shot down a Russian military aircraft on the border with Syria.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the Su-24 was hit by air-to-air missiles fired by Turkish F-16s while it was flying over Syrian territory.

But Turkish military officials said the plane was engaged after being warned that it was violating Turkish airspace.

Mr Putin described the incident as a "stab in the back" committed by "accomplices of terrorists".

The crew ejected before the jet crashed in Latakia province, but Syrian rebels said at least one was dead.

It is the first time a Russian aircraft has crashed in Syria since Moscow launched air strikes against opponents of President Bashar al-Assad in late September.

Editors Note: Turkey is heavily dependent on Russia for some 60% of their energy needs. Russians are the second-biggest visitors by nationality to Turkey with some 3.5 million Russians visiting Turkey in 2012. Russia are also building a Nuclear Reactor for Turkey. And so Turkey risks a

massive hit on its GDP should Russian's decide to ban tourism and close the energy stream.

Also...

The Russian Ministry of Defense released video earlier on Tuesday which proves the Russian aircraft never entered Turkish airspace. But even if we take Ankara at its word, a leaked letter to the United Nations Security Council reveals that Turkish authorities justified their actions based on a 17-second airspace violation.

Surely Erdogan would consider 17 seconds "short-term."

The Turkish justification also appears hypocritical given the fact that Turkey's own military planes have violated Greek airspace repeatedly over the last few years. Less than two weeks ago, Greek defense officials reported eight Turkish fighter jets entering Greek airspace, conducting a total of 19 transgressions. These incidents have increased dramatically since 2013, and in 2014, alone, Turkey entered Greek airspace a total of 1,017 times.

Russia plans sanctions against Turkey over jet downing
Russia is preparing wide-ranging economic sanctions against Turkey after Turkey downed one of its military jets on the border with Syria.

Read more at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34933608>

Also just in...

Russians tell Turks: we're abandoning your beaches
Russians have been venting their anger on social media after Turkey downed a Russian fighter jet on the border with Syria.

Surprisingly, much of the outrage revolves around the subject of holiday-making: Russians threaten to leave Turkey's beaches empty in revenge for the downed plane. One trending hashtag was "I'm not going to Turkey".

It comes after the government in Moscow urged Russians not to go to Turkey for security reasons, and major travel agencies have stopped selling tours to Turkey.

Turkey is a popular holiday destination for Russians, and if they stop going there, the country's tourism industry will take a major hit.

In the wake of downing of the Russian Su-24 bomber jet by Turkish Air Force president Putin claimed that Ankara appears to be an accomplice of terrorists, as it is purchasing oil in regions of Syria captured by extremists, and he is on solid ground in saying so, the German newspaper Bild reported.

Turkey has turned into a major consumer of oil from the so-called Islamic State extremist group, the author of the article continued. Turkish businessmen sign deals on oil purchases with jihadists, allowing them to get revenues of \$10 million weekly.

Christianity at the Brink of Extinction in Turkey
The Christian population of Turkey is evaporating rapidly. The nation, a NATO member since 1952, has experienced a reduction in its Christian population from 20% 100 years ago to only 0.2% today. The latest blow in the community occurred at the Hagia Sophia during Easter holy week.

"The historic Istanbul cathedral and museum, Hagia Sophia, witnessed its first Quran recitation under its roof after 85 years Saturday," reported the Anatolian News Agency of Turkey. "The Religious Affairs Directorate launched the exhibition 'Love of Prophet,' as part of commemorations of the birth of Islamic Prophet Muhammad."

Istanbul was once known as Constantinople, founded by Roman Emperor Constantine in 324. He made it the capital of Rome before it fell to the Ottoman Empire in 1453. They made it their capital until the empire collapsed after World War I. Modern day Turkey officially renamed it Istanbul in 1923.

Turkey changed the name, but current officials have clearly indicated a desire to return to the Islamist state established under the Ottoman Empire. The Turkish Council of Ministers, for example, formed the Istanbul Conquest Society to help organize a yearly event to celebrate the conquest of Constantinople. As columnist Constantine Tzanos asks, “Why would anyone want to celebrate the conquest “which not only by itself was a great human catastrophe, but it was also the precursor to many such catastrophes up to the very recent past?” The Ottomans terrorized the Balkans, killing anyone who did not convert to Islam. Historian H. Gandev believes “that 2608 Bulgarian villages disappeared,” while the “rural population decreased by a total of 112,144 households (or approximately 560,000 people).” The post-Ottoman Turkish government repeated their predecessor’s history with the Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian genocides in Asia Minor, which led to the deaths of over three million people.

The Ottomans destroyed and converted churches, which the Turkish state continues to do. Tzanos explains why (emphasis added):

Turkey is not converting churches into mosques because there is a need for more mosques and Turkey does not have the resources to build them. The prime minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan does not miss any opportunity to boast about the Turkish economic miracle under his leadership and the aspirations of his country to be counted as a great economic and political power.

The message conveyed by those in Turkey who have achieved the conversion of Christian churches into mosques and demand the conversion of Hagia Sofia is that Turkey is an Islamic state and no other religion is tolerated. How can this be reconciled with the insistence of Turkey to join the European Union, which is founded on “the principles of liberty, democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,” including the freedom of religion?

In September 2014, Turkish Environment and Urbanism Minister Erdogan Bayraktar claimed Christianity is not a religion, but a culture.

“The biggest three countries in the world are not Muslim countries,” he said, adding:

China, India—only the U.S. believes in a single God. Spirituality and religious feelings are weakening. There are 2.5 billion Christians in the world. Christianity is no longer a religion. It’s a culture now. But that is not what a religion is like. A religion teaches; it is a form of life that gives one peace and happiness. That is what they want to turn [Islam] into as well.

The Christian Broadcasting Network noted last year the dramatic changes within Turkey under then-Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Justice and Development Party (AKP). The country cracked down on the press and banned social media outlets.

“You have to remember that the AKP—the Justice and Development Party in Turkey—is a spinoff of the Muslim Brotherhood,” described Jonathan Schanzer, from the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD). “This is an organization that is founded on Islamist principles. Mr. Erdogan sees himself as an Islamist and a Turk first and foremost. And so he’s synthesizing Turkish nationalism with the Muslim Brotherhood.”

In 2013, Erdogan promised to reopen the Theological School of Haiki, the main ideological school of Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Turkish officials closed it in 1971 in response to tensions with Greece over control of Cyprus. However, he only promised to do it if Greece promised to allow their Muslims to appoint their own mufti. This is nearly impossible, as Pinar Tremblay explains in *al-Monitor*.

As president, Erdogan has cracked down on both press freedom and the freedom of individuals to express themselves politically. Turkish law enforcement has arrested and fined numerous citizens for allegedly insulting Erdogan, a crime in Turkey. It has also promoted Islamic ideals through the power of the state.

“No country in the region—including Iran—is as homogenous in terms of Islam as Turkey,” explains writer Cengiz Aktar. “It’s a mono-colour country—it’s a Muslim country.”

Turkey became a mostly Muslim country due to a "population exchange" with Greece. In 1923, "more than a million Greeks were forced out of Turkey to Greece while 300,000 Muslims from Greece were relocated here," writes Aktar. The Greeks who stayed faced massive taxes and anti-Greek programs, which eventually forced them out.

"The ethnic cleansing of these non-Muslim minorities was a huge brain drain," Aktar adds. "It also meant the disappearance of the bourgeoisie because not only were they wealthy but they were artisans. Istanbul lost its entire Christian and Jewish heritage."

A month after the Pope's visit, Erdogan announced a new church for the Syriac Christians. While it appears as a step forward, the Christians heard this news in 2011, 2012, and 2013, and such a church still does not exist:

The building of a church for Syriac Christians was first announced in 2011, when after two years of tussling and hairsplitting, the community secured approval from Erdogan, who at the time was prime minister, and then-President Abdullah Gül.

Both in 2011 and this time around, when the announcements were made of approval for the building project, no location was disclosed other than the general neighborhood.

In 2012, Istanbul's city government granted the Syriac Orthodox a plot to build a house of worship, but the Christians rejected the offer on the grounds that the allotted property was a Catholic cemetery and should be returned to its rightful owner.

They insisted on a separate plot to build the church, but no offer was ever forthcoming. As a result, the church was never built, making some Christians in Turkey skeptical that things will be different this time.

"In some ways, Ankara's policies against Turkey's Christian citizens have added a modern veneer and sophisticated brutality to Ottoman norms and practices," said political scientist Dr. Elizabeth H. Prodromou and historian Dr. Alexandros K. Kyrou. "In the words of an anonymous Church hierarch in Turkey fearful for the life of his flock, Christians in Turkey are an endangered species."

Last week (10-28-2015) brought news of a Turkish airstrike against Kurdish positions in Northern Syria. Here's an account, from the Wall Street Journal:

The Syrian Kurds are the only force in Syria, other than the government, which is in the least tolerant of the Christians living under their control. Turkey is trying to limit the extent of Kurdish controlled territory in Syria, and as a consequence limit the space in which Christians can reside in peace. The so-called Turkish "safe-haven" in Syria, which the US supports, will have no room for a Christian population. Turkey shows its true colors.

These actions only serve to illustrate how little concern is being given Christians in Syria, and demonstrates their dire need for continues support.

Editors Note: The question given the above is should Christians visit Turkey for a holiday? It would seem we shouldn't. Over 5 million Germans visited Turkey in 2012 for a holiday and 3.5 million Russians. So why are Christians supporting this Islamic regime that is exterminating Christians?

Why Germany needs migrants more than UK

There is an economic and demographic backdrop to the differential policies towards asylum-seekers of Germany and the UK - to Germany's relatively open door, that compares with the UK's heavily fortified portal (which will be opened just a bit by David Cameron later today).

The two relevant points (leaving aside moral ones) are that:

1. the UK's population is rising fast, whereas Germany's is falling fast;
2. the dependency ratio (the proportion of expensive older people in the population relative to able-bodied, tax-generating workers) is rising much quicker in Germany than in the UK.

So to put it another way, it is arguably particularly useful to Germany to have an influx of young grateful families from Syria or elsewhere, who may well be keen to toil and strive to rebuild their lives and prove to their hosts that they are not a burden - in the way that successive immigrant waves have done all over the world (including Jews like my family in London's East End).

Here are the European Commission's projections from its Ageing Report that was published earlier this year.

It projects that Germany's population will shrink from 81.3 million in 2013 to 70.8 million in 2060, whereas the UK's will rise from 64.1 million to 80.1 million.

As you can see, what is striking is that the UK is set to become the EU's most populous country, ahead of Germany and France, as a result of a relatively high fertility rate and greater projected rates of net migration.

It is probably relevant that the Commission forecasts that the proportion of the German population in 2060 represented by migrants arriving after 2013 would be 9%, compared with 14% in the UK. So Germany would be a lot less multicultural than the UK.

As for the dependency ratio, the percentage of those 65 and over compared with those aged between 15 and 64, that is forecast to rise from 32% to a very high 59% in Germany by 2060.

Or to put it another way, by 2060 there will be fewer than two Germans under 65 to work and generate taxes to support each German over 65.

Because people are living longer more or less everywhere, the dependency ratio is also set to increase in the UK, but by less - from 27% to 43%. Which still represents a massive increase in the burden on the younger generation of supporting the old, but not as great as in Germany.

One way of seeing the impact of ageing is in differences in the relative burdens on the public finances of support required by older people.

So in Germany, age-related spending on pensions, health and long-term care is expected to rise by a hefty five percentage points of GDP or national income by 2060, more than double the projected 2.3% increase anticipated for the UK.

Here is the thing. Wherever you stand in the debate on whether immigration is a good or bad thing - and most economists would argue that immigration promotes growth - right now immigration looks much more economically useful to Germany than to the UK.

That is perhaps one of the unspoken reasons why Germany is being much more welcoming to asylum seekers from Syria and elsewhere right now.

That said, some business leaders and a couple of Tory ministers gave me what can only be described as an off-message critique of David Cameron's approach to the migrant crisis over the weekend.

They said that Angela Merkel is creaming off the most economically useful of the asylum seekers, by taking those that have shown the gumption and initiative to risk life and limb by fleeing to Europe.

Precedent suggests they will be the ones that find work fastest and impose the least economic burden on Germany or any other host country.

By contrast, David Cameron appears to be doing what many would see as the more morally admirable thing - which is to go to the Syrian camps and invite children and the most vulnerable of refugees to Britain.

But this version of living up to what the prime minister calls our moral responsibilities is undeniably more expensive in the short term than giving a welcome to the able-bodied refugees already in

Hungary, Greece or Italy, and desperate to come here.

Egyptians and their leaders are warming to Jews, Israel

Egyptians are reassessing 1950s-era nationalization policies that squeezed out the Jewish community and other ethnic minorities.

Challenging summer for Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi. Within one week in late June and early July, his attorney general was assassinated in the upscale Cairo suburb of Heliopolis and an Islamic State affiliate launched a two-day siege in the North Sinai town of Sheikh Zuweid.

But just days after the bloody Sinai battle, Sisi put aside two hours to meet with a delegation from the American Jewish Committee, the global Jewish advocacy group, and then delivered a matter-of-fact account of the meeting to the state-run Middle East News Agency. The conversation revolved around regional terrorism threats, the stalled peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians, the nuclear deal with Iran and the preservation of Egyptian Jewish heritage, according to the AJC's director of government and international affairs, Jason Isaacson, who coordinated the delegation.

Read more at:

http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Egyptians-and-their-leaders-are-warming-to-Jews-Israel-411314?utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=referral

Coptic Pope Tawadros's Jerusalem visit 'will create huge firestorm in Egypt'

Egypt's Coptic Pope Tawadros II departed for a controversial visit to Israel on Thursday to attend the funeral of a senior church official, a church spokesman said.

"The decision by Pope Tawadros to travel to Jerusalem at the head of a distinguished delegation of bishops to participate in the funeral of Archbishop Anba Abraham will create a huge firestorm in Egypt," Samuel Tadros, an Egypt expert and research fellow at the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom, told The Jerusalem Post.

Abraham died on Wednesday and the funeral is set to take place on Saturday.

"Jerusalem has always held a special place in Copts' hearts, with people wishing to make the pilgrimage before they died," said Tadros, adding that following the 1967 war the journey became unfeasible.

This is the first Coptic papal visit to Jerusalem since 1832, noted Tadros.

After Israel and Egypt signed the 1979 peace treaty, the previous pope, Shenouda III, barred Copts from traveling to Israel's capital. "His decision was driven by his political consideration that if they go, Copts would be tarred as the traitors of the Arab world, so he insisted they would only enter Jerusalem together with Muslims," explained Tadros.

"While the Church will attempt to portray the Tawadros visit as different from the pilgrimage, no one will buy that line. The pope must have known clearly that he will pay a political price for his visit, but as he has shown since he became pope in 2012, once he is convinced of the soundness of a decision, he takes it disregarding the political costs."

The Coptic leader's visit will likely pave the way for "a significant increase in the number of Copts going on the pilgrimage to Jerusalem in April," he added.

Zvi Mazel, who served as Israel's sixth ambassador to Egypt and is currently a fellow at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs and a contributor to this newspaper, said that the visit might be a positive signal, "since it will be quite difficult for the pope to maintain the ban on visiting Israel to his flock."

It is also probable, said Mazel, that Tawadros "got a green light from President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, whose country maintains close intelligence relations with Israel against the background of the ongoing terrorist war of Islamic State against Egypt in Sinai."

The Copts in Egypt, who constitute about 10 percent of the population, are under pressure from their Muslim compatriots to oppose “normalization” with Israel.

However, conditions have changed since the Copts supported Sisi’s coming to power, and “have a new confidence to act according to their feelings,” he added.

A church statement said: “The pope headed a delegation of Egyptian clerics to al-Quds [Jerusalem] to pay tribute to the oldest among the church archbishops and most reputable after the pope in the Coptic Holy Synod,” Daily News Egypt reported.

The church rejected speculation that the trip was motivated by other interests beside the funeral, according to the report.

“The position of the church remains unchanged, which is not going to Jerusalem without all our Egyptian (Muslim) brothers,” church spokesman Boulos Halim told AFP.

The Sisi government has made significant efforts to overcome years of Coptic oppression at the hands of the Muslim Brotherhood, especially during the short presidency of the Brotherhood’s Muhammad Morsi, which was characterized by numerous attacks on individual Copts and churches.

In February, in response to the beheading of 21 Egyptian Copt laborers in neighboring Libya by Islamic State terrorists, Sisi ordered an air strike that reportedly killed more than 50 of the terrorists.

Editor’s Note: The above article was forwarded to our Grand Prior from General Patrick Rea.

Kenya’s Water Women

How Kenya’s female water tank masons are delivering measurable benefits to their communities - and their country.

In this film we head to the western Kenyan town of Kakamega and to the nearby village of Sisokhe to meet social worker Rose Atieno and Catherine Ondele, a nurse, who are using rainwater harvesting technology to bring clean water to villages.

See the film at:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/women-make-change/2015/09/kenya-water-women-150907100720512.html>

Migrant crisis: Why Syrians do not flee to Gulf states

By Amira Fathalla with additional editorial

As the crisis brews over Syrian refugees trying to enter European countries, questions have been raised over why they are not heading to wealthy Gulf states closer to home.

Although those fleeing the Syrian crisis have for several years been crossing into Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey in huge numbers, entering other Arab states - especially in the Gulf - is far less straightforward.

Officially, Syrians can apply for a tourist visa or work permit in order to enter a Gulf state. But the process is costly, and there is a widespread perception that many Gulf states have unwritten restrictions in place that make it hard for Syrians to be granted a visa in practice.

Syrians have flooded into the UN-run Zaatari refugee camp, north-east of the Jordanian capital Amman. Most successful cases are Syrians already in Gulf states extending their stays, or those entering because they have family there.

For those with limited means, there is the added matter of the sheer physical distance between Syria and the Gulf.

This comes as part of wider obstacles facing Syrians, who are required to obtain rarely granted visas to enter almost all Arab countries. Without a visa, Syrians are not currently allowed to enter Arab

countries except for Algeria, Mauritania, Sudan and Yemen.

The relative wealth and proximity to Syria of the states has led many - in both social and as well as traditional media - to question whether these states have more of a duty than Europe towards Syrians suffering from over four years of conflict and the emergence of jihadist groups in the country.

The Arabic hashtag #Welcoming_Syria's_refugees_is_a_Gulf_duty has been used more than 33,000 times on Twitter in the past week.

Users have posted powerful images to illustrate the plight of Syrian refugees, with photos of people drowned at sea, children being carried over barbed wire, or families sleeping rough.

A Facebook page called The Syrian Community in Denmark has shared a video showing migrants being allowed to enter Austria from Hungary, prompting one user to ask: "How did we flee from the region of our Muslim brethren, which should take more responsibility for us than a country they describe as infidels?"

Another user replied: "I swear to the Almighty God, it's the Arabs who are the infidels." "Let them in!"

The story has also attracted the attention of regional press and political actors.

The Saudi daily Makkah Newspaper published a cartoon - widely shared on social media - that showed a man in traditional Gulf clothing looking out of a door with barbed wire around it and pointing at door with the EU flag on it.

"Why don't you let them in, you discourteous people?!" he says.

The commander of the opposition Free Syrian Army (FSA), Riyad al-Asaad, retweeted an image of refugees posted by a former Kuwaiti MP, Faisal al-Muslim, who had added the comment: "Oh countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, these are innocent people and I swear they are most deserving of billions in aid and donations."

But despite the appeals from social media, Gulf states' position seems unlikely to shift in favour of Syrian refugees.

The trend in most Gulf states is towards relying on migrant workers from South-East Asia and the Indian subcontinent, particularly for unskilled labour. In terms of employment, the trend in most Gulf states, such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE is towards relying on migrant workers from South-East Asia and the Indian subcontinent, particularly for unskilled labour.

While non-Gulf Arabs do occupy positions in skilled mid-ranking jobs, for example in education and health, they are up against a "nationalisation" drive whereby the Saudi and Kuwaiti governments in particular are seeking to prioritise the employment of locals.

Non-native residents may also struggle to create stable lives in these countries as it is near impossible to gain nationality.

In 2012, Kuwait even announced an official strategy to reduce the number of foreign workers in the emirate by a million over 10 years.

While Europe is being burdened by potentially millions of people who don't share the same culture or religion as the host population, Gulf Arab states refuse to pull their weight, resolving only to throw money at the problem.

The likelihood of the Saudis inviting Syrian refugees to stay in Mina is virtually zero, but the thousands of empty tents serve as a physical representation of the hypocrisy shared by wealthy Gulf Arab states when it comes to helping with the crisis.

While European countries are being lectured about their failure to take in enough refugees, Saudi Arabia - which has taken in precisely zero migrants - has 100,000 air conditioned tents that can

house over 3 million people sitting empty.



The sprawling network of high quality tents are located in the city of Mina, spreading across a 20 square km valley, and are only used for 5 days of the year by Hajj pilgrims.



Photos credit: [Akram Abahre](#)

The tents, which measure 8 meters by 8 meters, were permanently constructed by the Saudi government in the 1990's and were upgraded in 1997 to be fire proof. They are divided into camps which include kitchen and bathroom facilities.

Saudis argue that the tents in Mina are needed to host the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, but given that the Arabic concept of Ummah is supposed to offer protection to all Muslims under one brotherhood, surely an alternative location could be found so that Mina can be repurposed to house desperate families fleeing war and ISIS persecution?

The likelihood of the Saudis inviting Syrian refugees to stay in Mina is virtually zero, but the thousands of empty tents serve as a physical representation of the hypocrisy shared by wealthy Gulf

Arab states when it comes to helping with the crisis.

US Created Syrian Conflict, Now It's Time to Compromise and Fix Crisis

I'm always in favour of looking at opposing views on situations and so I share this view of the Syrian crisis from a Russian perspective...

The West wants to overthrow Bashar al-Assad, because he is a Russian ally and one of the main opponents of Israel in the Middle East, Dr. Marcus Papadopoulos, the editor of Politics First Magazine, told Radio Sputnik.

The West, especially the United States, is responsible for creating chaos in the Middle East and North Africa that eventually resulted in the current refugee crisis in Europe. However, the mainstream Western media and journalists choose to ignore this, Dr. Papadopoulos said.

Earlier this week al-Assad spoke with the Russian media and blamed the West for orchestrating chaos in Syria, but failing to take responsibility for millions of Syrian refugees that were forced to leave their country as a result of the conflict.

"Assad is right. How many refugees were in Syria before the West started to support Islamists in Syria? None. But as soon as the West interfered the flow of refugees started," Dr. Papadopoulos explained.

Right now, refugees are coming from Syria, Iraq and Libya. All these countries have a common denominator — they are all the victims of Western interference. The US government, in particular, thinks it's above international law and that it can overthrow foreign governments that it doesn't like to pursue its own interests, the expert said.

It shouldn't matter whether or not the US government likes al-Assad, or liked Muanmar Gaddafi and Saddam Hussein, because they were the legitimate leaders of their own countries. As soon as the United States removed Gaddafi and Hussein, their countries descended into chaos and Islamic extremists of all kinds took over the countries, turning millions of people into refugees, Dr. Papadopoulos continued.

Since al-Assad is a Russian ally, Washington wants to remove him. Two other key reasons why the US government is so keen to overthrow al-Assad are because he is an opponent of Israel, America's main ally in the region, and a friend of Iran, Dr. Papadopoulos explained.

Culturally and demographically, Syria is a very delicate and complicated country and if one interferes into this sort of a country, there is bound to be "terrible repercussions," Dr. Papadopoulos said.

Having created the conflict, now the US government has to sit down with al-Assad and try to find a working solution to solve the crisis. It's also crucial to have Russia as a mediator, since Damascus and Moscow are long-time allies and without the role of the Kremlin a deal won't happen.

"You might not like each other, but you have to work with each other," Dr. Papadopoulos said, bringing up the example of Iran and how it was possible to solve the issue of Iran's nuclear program when everyone decided to sit down at the negotiations table.

Deals can be made, the US government just has to realize that it must learn to compromise with others, the expert concluded.

End of an Era: Iran-Russia Cooperation in Syria Defies US Hegemony

A senior Lebanese military analyst underlined that the alliance between Iran and Russia that has grown stronger in the war against the terrorists in Syria has challenged the US hegemony in the world.

Read more at: <http://sputniknews.com/politics/20151128/1030927204/russia-iran-alliance-mutual-cooperation.html#ixzz3sqHJ0115>

What is 'Islamic State'?

So-called Islamic State burst on to the international scene in 2014 when it seized large swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq. It has become notorious for its brutality, including mass killings, abductions and beheadings. The group though has attracted support elsewhere in the Muslim world - and a US-led coalition has vowed to destroy it.

Learn more at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29052144>

Europe's Border Crisis: The Long Road

Watch this BBC Documentary which follows refugees from Greece to Austria at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06g01kf>

Muslims due to be the Majority in Brussels by 2030

Do watch this video from CBNews at:

<http://www.cbn.com/tv/embedplayer.aspx?bcid=1509282970001>

Editors Note: In the press they are reporting that the attack on Paris came from Belgium and at time of writing another report says...

Soldiers and armed police are patrolling the streets of Brussels after the city was put on maximum alert.

Belgium's prime minister said the authorities had information about "the imminent threat" of an attack similar to Paris, possibly involving gunmen in multiple locations.

The metro system will be closed till Sunday, and the public has been warned to avoid crowds, including shopping centers and concerts.

See also an overview of Belgium at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34934270>

Balance of Power Changing: Merkel Dominates Europe No More

France is challenging Germany's dominance in Europe as the European agenda is changing fast amid recent world events.

The recent events including the migrant crisis and the civil war in Syria has put "hard power" back atop the European agenda, journalist James Neuger wrote in his article. Those changes are burying the notion of the economically powerful but militarily shy Germany as Europe's leader.

"French warplanes taking off from the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier may not remake the Middle East, but are already reshaping Europe's balance of power after years of German economic dominance," the article read.

The author gave some examples to prove the fact that Paris is challenging Germany's dominance. France was never comfortable with Germany's low-deficit requirements and finally it has cast them off. Announcing an increase in French military spending after the Paris attacks, President Francois Hollande said: "In these circumstances, the security pact is more important than the stability pact." The rest of Europe, including Germany, had no choice but to agree with this.

UK Prime Minister David Cameron, not German Chancellor Angela Merkel, was the first person Hollande spoke with about his plans to battle the Islamic State (ISIL) terrorist group, the author wrote.

Germany has undisputed economic power, but it is unable to maintain security in Europe in a short-term perspective, Daniel Fiott, a researcher at the Institute for European Studies, was quoted as saying in the article.

"The focus, if not obsession, with the eurozone crisis has given us the impression that Germany is the superpower in the European integration process," Christophe Hillion, professor of European law at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, was quoted as saying in the article. "But if we widen our view of European integration, the picture might be different."

The author underscored that Hollande's visit to Moscow this week "spurred concern" in Europe that France will break from the EU consensus on sanctions against Russia.

According to him, many Eastern European countries will not be happy if the EU eases its policy toward Russia. As for protecting their strategic interests, they count on Germany.

Earlier, a columnist for Foreign Policy wrote an article about France possibly challenging Germany's leadership in Europe. According to him, Paris demonstrated that France was never happy with taking a backseat after Germany in the EU. The crisis of the German model of reigning Europe would fuel the struggle for power in the region.

Left Behind: US Jet Fighters Hold No Candle to Russian, Chinese Rivals

The US Air Force is facing a serious dilemma: insufficient air superiority fighters as potential competitors. Russia and China build up their capabilities in the field, an article in The National Interest by Dave Majumdar read.

The Lockheed Martin F-35 fifth-generation jet fighter has its share of issues. Meanwhile, the F-22 Raptor fleet was terminated after only 187 aircraft were built, less than 50 percent of the 381 jets needed by the military.

According to the article, the F-22 was a formidable combat aircraft, with a balanced combination of stealth, speed and maneuvering capabilities.

"It's simply the best air superiority fighter the United States has ever produced and it was a foolish, shortsighted decision to end its production run prematurely," Majumdar wrote.

What is more, while the F-22 became operational in 2005, the computer architecture of the F-22 Raptor was designed back in the early 1990s.

While the delays, malfunctions and costs of the F-35 fighter jet pile higher and higher, the main contractors for the notoriously over-budget and overdue program threw record amounts of money towards politicians in 2014.

The Raptor's software is particularly obtuse and difficult to upgrade. This is why arming the jet with the AIM-9 guided air-to-air missile and AIM-120 all-weather short-range air-to-air missile has been so problematic.

Finally, the basic F-22 airframe design originates from the 1980s. Stealth, propulsion, avionics and airframe design have come a long way since the Raptor was designed, the author explained.

If the Air Force decided to return the F-22 to service, it would have to ensure that it would be capable of countering modern contemporary threats.

"The reality is that the Air Force likely will never restart the Raptor production line," he wrote. "The technology is dated and the jet may not be relevant to the threat environment past the 2030s—especially if one considers that the PAK-FA and J-20 are both around the corner."

China unveils passenger aircraft to challenge Boeing and Airbus

China has unveiled its first large passenger aircraft in decades, in an effort to mount a challenge to planemakers Boeing and Airbus.

Read more at <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-34701999>

Defence Review to boost F35 aircraft carrier jet numbers

Britain is to speed up the purchase of new fighter jets under plans to be unveiled on Monday, Chancellor George Osborne has confirmed. The government's Strategic Defence and Security Review will include plans to boost the UK's F35 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft to 24 by 2023. The RAF's drone fleet will also be doubled, from 10 to 20.

Learn more at <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-34895694>

Editor's Note: U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Bob Work has told journalists he still hopes Canada's Liberal government will allow Lockheed Martin's F-35 to compete in the program to replace the CF-18s.

Work talked to Canadian defence minister Harjit Sajjan on the weekend. Sajjan noted last week in an interview with Defence Watch that the requirements will have to be determined for a new fighter jet but added they will be focused on the "defence of Canada."

Bob Work sounds like he is hopeful the F-35 will be considered....kind of.

"I think they're going to have another full and open competition," Work told U.S. journalists. "I think the F-35 will be part of that but the requirements from the competition may change. We don't know."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said Canada will not buy the F-35.

Do people understand what rape is?

Do teenagers understand sex and consent? To find out, a group of 16-18-year-olds were shown a specially written drama about an incident to see if they could work out if it was consensual sex or whether a crime had been committed.

Warning: This article contains explicit sexual detail but can be viewed at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-34470205>

How cockroaches could save lives

Cockroaches are often associated with dirty kitchens and grimy bathrooms - scuttling away as soon as you enter the room and turn on the light. But pest controllers aren't the only people interested in them - these insects are inspiring research into antibiotics, robots and mechanical limbs, writes Mary Colwell.

Read more about this at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-34517443>

Genetically modified mosquitoes could help wipe out malaria

Researchers out of the University of California have developed a way of altering the genes of mosquitoes to eliminate their ability to transmit malaria to humans.

Using a process called "gene drive," the researchers essentially introduced malaria-blocking genes into the offspring of the *Anopheles stephensi* mosquito. It was so successful that it stopped malaria transmission in 99.5 per cent of the mosquito offspring.

Malaria is one of the oldest diseases on Earth, having been around for more than 4,000 years. About 3.4 billion people live in areas at risk of malaria transmission.

The Nobel Peace Prize for 2015

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2015 is to be awarded to the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet for its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011. The Quartet was formed in the summer of 2013 when the democratization process was in danger of collapsing as a result of political assassinations and widespread social unrest. It established an alternative, peaceful political process at a time when the country was on the brink of civil war. It was thus instrumental in enabling Tunisia, in the space of a few years, to establish a constitutional system of government guaranteeing fundamental rights for the entire population, irrespective of gender, political conviction or religious belief.

The National Dialogue Quartet has comprised four key organizations in Tunisian civil society: the Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT, Union Générale Tunisienne du Travail), the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts (UTICA, Union Tunisienne de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de l'Artisanat), the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH, La Ligue Tunisienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme), and the Tunisian Order of Lawyers (Ordre National des Avocats de Tunisie). These organizations represent different sectors and values in Tunisian society: working life and welfare, principles of the rule of law and human rights. On this basis, the Quartet exercised its

role as a mediator and driving force to advance peaceful democratic development in Tunisia with great moral authority. The Nobel Peace Prize for 2015 is awarded to this Quartet, not to the four individual organizations as such.

The Arab Spring originated in Tunisia in 2010-2011, but quickly spread to a number of countries in North Africa and the Middle East. In many of these countries, the struggle for democracy and fundamental rights has come to a standstill or suffered setbacks. Tunisia, however, has seen a democratic transition based on a vibrant civil society with demands for respect for basic human rights.

An essential factor for the culmination of the revolution in Tunisia in peaceful, democratic elections last autumn was the effort made by the Quartet to support the work of the constituent assembly and to secure approval of the constitutional process among the Tunisian population at large. The Quartet paved the way for a peaceful dialogue between the citizens, the political parties and the authorities and helped to find consensus-based solutions to a wide range of challenges across political and religious divides. The broad-based national dialogue that the Quartet succeeded in establishing countered the spread of violence in Tunisia and its function is therefore comparable to that of the peace congresses to which Alfred Nobel refers in his will.

The course that events have taken in Tunisia since the fall of the authoritarian Ben Ali regime in January 2011 is unique and remarkable for several reasons. Firstly, it shows that Islamist and secular political movements can work together to achieve significant results in the country's best interests. The example of Tunisia thus underscores the value of dialogue and a sense of national belonging in a region marked by conflict. Secondly, the transition in Tunisia shows that civil society institutions and organizations can play a crucial role in a country's democratization, and that such a process, even under difficult circumstances, can lead to free elections and the peaceful transfer of power. The National Dialogue Quartet must be given much of the credit for this achievement and for ensuring that the benefits of the Jasmine Revolution have not been lost.

Tunisia faces significant political, economic and security challenges. The Norwegian Nobel Committee hopes that this year's prize will contribute towards safeguarding democracy in Tunisia and be an inspiration to all those who seek to promote peace and democracy in the Middle East, North Africa and the rest of the world. More than anything, the prize is intended as an encouragement to the Tunisian people, who despite major challenges have laid the groundwork for a national fraternity which the Committee hopes will serve as an example to be followed by other countries.

Oslo, 10 October 2015

Book Lovers Are Obsessed With BookBub

Last year, Random House quietly gave away Dan Brown's bestselling novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, for free for one week. Millions of readers were unaware of the week-long giveaway.

A select group of readers did take advantage of the promotion, though. They were using BookBub, a daily email that alerts readers to free and deeply discounted ebooks that are available for a limited time. BookBub notified nearly 1 million readers of the free *Da Vinci Code* deal last spring.

For readers, part of the appeal of BookBub is that it does not list every single free ebook on the market. Instead, BookBub's expert editorial team selectively curates only the highest-quality ebooks to feature in their email and on their website. In most cases, the deals can be purchased for any ereading device, including Kindle, iPad, Nook, and Android.

And it's not just for thrillers like *The Da Vinci Code*. BookBub features award-winning bestsellers and undiscovered gems across more than two dozen categories, including romance, historical fiction, literary fiction, nonfiction and more.

Readers can select which genres they would like to receive, so each email is matched to their preferences. With millions of readers using BookBub's service, this type of promotional concept seems to be resonating with both publishers and readers alike.

You can find out more about the service by visiting <http://www.bookbub.com>

Editor's Note: I have subscribed to this service myself and often get emailed about Free Kindle Books.

South Sudan: Shattered Dream

Almost four million people are facing severe food shortages, with thousands at risk of starvation, in South Sudan, in what has been described as one of the worst humanitarian crises.

According to a report published in October 2015, if immediate action is not taken, the country could face famine in a matter of weeks. Aid agencies are pleading with both government and opposition forces to respect the current ceasefire and give unrestricted access to the areas most in need.

The country's brutal civil war has forced two million people from their homes. Tens of thousands have been killed. The United Nations has accused the government and rebel fighters of atrocities and "crimes against humanity".

Survivors give detailed accounts of mass killings. Villages destroyed. Families wiped out. Women and children raped.

The conflict was triggered by a political power struggle between the President, Salva Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, and his rival and former Vice-President, Riek Machar, a Nuer. But it quickly took on a bloody multi-ethnic dimension right across the country.

Entire villages have been cut off from the outside world. Aid agencies are, however, negotiating with the warring sides to allow them to enter. One of the worst-affected areas is Koch County in Unity State, in the north of the country. Here, 30 000 people face severe food insecurity and there are fears of a famine.

Watch a video at <https://youtu.be/IDSu8wIQG6c>

The Guardian view on Yemen: remember the forgotten war?

Diplomatic balancing acts should not prevent western nations telling the truth about war crimes and atrocities being committed in the Middle East's less high-profile conflicts

While so much international attention is again focused on Syria because of the refugee crisis in Europe, another less noticed war, less commented on, yet equally vicious, especially for the civilians who bear its brunt, continues to tear at the Middle East. Yemen's humanitarian catastrophe shows no sign of relenting. Yet it generates only a fraction of the attention focused on Syria.

The Yemen war is a conflict in which a Saudi-led coalition of Sunni Arab states has, since March, launched an all-out air campaign against the Iranian-backed Houthi armed groups who seized the capital Sana'a a year ago. Saudi Arabia's stated objective is to roll back the Shia Houthis and reinstate Yemen's president, Abdu Mansour Hadi, who fled last year as the insurgency gained ground. Saudi methods have been dismally indifferent to the plight of civilians. The indiscriminate targeting of populated areas has become routine. Bombs and shells have been fired at hospitals, schools, factories and refugee camps. The death toll has reached 4,500 in six months. According to the United Nations, 80% of Yemen's 25 million population is on the brink of famine.

Nor are there signs of improvement. Indeed the indications are that things could soon get worse, as the Sunni coalition and Hadi loyalists are preparing a ground offensive on Sana'a. This is certain to be a disaster for a population that already faces food and medicine shortages, as well as drastic water cuts. Diplomatic efforts again faltered on Sunday when the possibility of peace talks, tentatively set for this week, suddenly collapsed after factions loyal to Mr Hadi announced they would not take part until the Houthi side recognised a UN resolution in support of the deposed leader.

Yemen's history has always been marked by tribal and religious tensions, and the Houthi insurgency has been going on for some years. However, the heart of the current chaos and misery is the larger reality that Saudi Arabia and Iran have both made Yemen a testing ground for their regional strategic rivalry, against a backdrop in which the United States, the major supplier of arms to the Saudis, is simultaneously attempting a significant thaw in relations with Iran. All the Gulf states except Oman have joined the Sunni military coalition in recent months, yet the US has largely turned a blind eye to

the war crimes being committed. Its priority is to allay Sunni fears that the old alliances could be compromised after the nuclear deal was reached with Iran.

Yet America's balancing act may fail. The security vacuum created in Yemen, and the radicalisation that the conflict has accentuated, have opened up more space for al-Qaida-affiliated groups. Recent US drone strikes underline that what is happening in Yemen is military escalation, not stabilisation. A negotiated settlement is long overdue, but it will only happen if strong international pressure, including from the US, is exerted on the Saudis. If even more instability is to be prevented on the Arabian peninsula, there must be a preparedness to name, shame and restrain those who are conducting atrocities against civilians in Yemen. Current western complacency and silence will only bring more chaos and strife.

A Muslim woman asks the wrong person a question!
Got in this clip from Prior II of St James Priory and it is worth watching.

See <http://www.mrctv.org/embed/127748>

Too hot to be an engineer - women mark Ada Lovelace Day



On Ada Lovelace Day, four female engineers from around the world share their experiences of working in male-dominated professions.

Learn more about this at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-34359936>

Christianity Is 'a Generation Away From Extinction' in Britain, Says Former Archbishop of Canterbury

Christianity Is 'a Generation Away From Extinction' in Britain, Says Former Archbishop of Canterbury

Unless the church makes a substantial breakthrough in attracting young people back to the faith, Christianity in Britain is just "a generation away from extinction," says former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Carey.

Referencing the Church of England's warning that shrinking attendance could challenge its role as a "national institution," Lord Carey pointed out at a Christian Conference that clergy are currently grappling with a "feeling of defeat" and congregations are weighed down with "heaviness," according to The Telegraph.

On top of that, he said, the public's reaction to all of this is simply "rolled eyes and a yawn of boredom."

Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu, highlighted the gravity of the dying church by telling members they need to "evangelize or fossilize."

Read more at

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/christianity-is-a-generation-away-from-extinction-in-britain-says-former-archbishop-of-canterbury-109184/>

Russian MoD Finalizing Modern Arctic Base

MOSCOW (Sputnik) – The creation of Russia's Arctic military grouping will be completed by 2018, Russian Defense Minister Gen. Sergei Shoigu said Thursday.

Shoigu also said that the formation of a military base on the Arctic island Kotelny in the Novosibirsk Archipelago is also practically completed.

"We're not hiding this from anyone, we have practically finished creating the base in the Novosibirsk Archipelago, on the island of Kotelny. This is a really large base that was never seen during the Soviet times, and it has modern equipment, all of the needed equipment for these boundaries," Shoigu said.

He added that smaller bases would also be placed on Wrangler Island, Cape Schmidt, on the eastern coast of Chukotka, and in the Kirill Islands.

In December 2014, Russia unveiled a revised military doctrine that prioritizes the protection of national interests in the Arctic. Russia has improved its presence in the Arctic, believed to hold huge oil and natural gas deposits, establishing a new Arctic command and is expanding its icebreaker fleet.

According to Russian President Vladimir Putin, Russia does not plan to militarize the Arctic, but will take the necessary steps to ensure its defense capabilities in the region.

Russia has conducted several military drills in the Arctic this year. Moscow plans to create a network of naval facilities in the region for submarines and warships as part of the country's military strategy through 2020.

And so how will this impact Canada?

The rejected vegetables that aren't even wonky

I saw this article in the BBC magazine and thought it would be good to highlight this story. While it is about the UK I am quite sure it also applies right around the world including the USA and Canada.

Tonnes of perfectly good food are thrown away in the UK every year. Why, asks Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall.

I've witnessed some pretty grim scenes in the food business down the years - appalling conditions in the poultry industry, crazy EU fishing laws, all kinds of greed and folly.

Root vegetables may be a touch harder to feel for than chickens or fish. But watching 20 tonnes of freshly dug parsnips consigned to the rubbish heap in a Norfolk farmyard - purely because they didn't look pretty enough - is still one of the most shocking things I've ever seen.

That's not just a few sackfuls of parsnips, it's not a skip-load. It's a colossal mountain of them - enough to fill nearly 300 shopping trolleys. And, more importantly perhaps, to feed 100,000 people with a generous portion of roast parsnips.

That was just one week's wastage. So multiply by the 40 or so weeks of parsnip season (September-May) to get the full annual figure - four million parsnip portions that could, but won't, get eaten.

You can read a lot more about this at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-34647454>

The Case For Mars: The Plan to Settle the Red Planet and Why We Must

Fifteen years ago, aerospace engineer Robert Zubrin published The Case for Mars, and issued a clarion call to his fellow scientists, and the people of Earth. We need to plan our Mars colony, and we need to do it now.

Zubrin has released an updated and revised version of his classic book, outlining the most realistic way to get ourselves to Mars and start setting up a human society there. Smart, idealistic, and pragmatic, this book is more important than ever. And we've got an excerpt from it.

Preface to the Revised Edition

Our doubts are traitors
And make us lose the good we oft might win
By fearing to attempt.
- William Shakespeare, Measure for Measure

A lot has happened in the 15 years since *The Case for Mars* was first published. A string of robotic missions were launched to the Red Planet, including Mars Pathfinder and Mars Global Surveyor in late 1996, Mars Polar Lander and Mars Climate Orbiter in 1999, Mars Odyssey in 2001, Spirit, Opportunity, and Mars Express in 2003, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter in 2005, and Phoenix in 2007. With the exception of the 1999 flights, all of these missions have been brilliantly successful. As a result, our knowledge of the planet has greatly increased.

We now know for certain that Mars was once a warm and wet planet, possessing not only ponds and streams, but oceans of water on its surface, and continued to have an active hydrosphere for a period on the order of a billion years – a span five times as long as the time it took for life to appear on Earth after there was liquid water here. Thus, if the theory is correct that life is a natural phenomenon emerging from chemistry wherever there is liquid water, various minerals, and a sufficient period of time, then life must have appeared on Mars.

Furthermore, we know that much of that water remains on that planet today as ice or frozen mud, with the soil of continent-sized regions of the planet assessed as being more than 60 percent water by weight. Not only that, we have discovered that Mars has liquid water, not on the surface, but underground, where geothermal heating has warmed it to create environments capable of providing a home for life on Mars today. We have found places where water flowed out of the underground water table and down the slopes of craters within the past ten years. Indeed, we have detected methane emissions characteristic of subterranean microbial life emerging from vents in the Martian surface. These are either the signatures of Martian life, or the proof of subsurface hydrothermal environments fully suitable for life. Either way, they identify exactly the places where astronauts could go, drill, and bring up water samples whose contents would reveal to us the truth about the nature, prevalence, and potential diversity of life in the universe.

Beyond that we have mapped the mineral content and topography of the planet from orbit, and photographed it in sufficient detail to be able to see and guide our small robotic rovers and to identify ideal landing sites and travel routes for future human explorers.

So now we know why we should go, and where we should go. But are we on our way? Not yet. In startling contrast to the brilliant and continuing success of the robotic Mars exploration program, over the fifteen years since the first publication of this book, NASA's human spaceflight program has made no progress whatsoever. The point requires emphasis. Aside from the information returned by the robots, NASA today is no better prepared to send humans to Mars than it was in 1996.

How can that be? The most frequent answer is lack of money. If only NASA had the kind of funding it did during the Apollo era, it is claimed, we would see great accomplishments in human spaceflight. This excuse, however, is completely false. The fact of the matter is that in today's dollars, the average NASA budget between 1961 (when President Kennedy gave his speech announcing the Apollo program) and 1973 (when the final Apollo-Skylab mission was flown) was \$19 billion per year, nearly exactly the same as NASA's budget is today, and has been, in round numbers, since about 1990.

Nor is it the case that the Apollo era NASA was able to accomplish more in the human spaceflight area because it did so at the expense of robotic exploration. In fact, during that period the unmanned exploration program was more active than it has been over the past 15 years, with some 40 lunar and planetary probes launched. In fact, if we extend our baseline to 15 years, matching the 1961 to 1975 period against 1996 to 2010, we find that the earlier NASA launched 10 Mars probes with 8 successes, nearly identical (but slightly superior) in flight rate and batting average to the modern NASA's track record of 9 Mars probes with 7 successes.

Yes, it is true that the NASA budget during the 1960's got a larger share of federal outlays, but that is

not because NASA was richer, but because the nation was smaller and poorer. During the 1960s, America's population was 60 percent what it is today, and its GNP was 25 percent as great. These were hardly advantages for Apollo.

Furthermore, the technology available to America a half century ago was vastly inferior to that of today. The men who designed Apollo did their calculations on slide rules, capable of performing, at most, one calculation per second, not computers doing billions. Yet they solved all the problems necessary to take us from nearly zero human spaceflight capability to landing men on the moon and returning them to Earth in eight years.

As this book will show in detail, from a technological point of view, we are much better prepared to send humans to Mars today than they were to get men to the Moon in 1961. Yet they got there in 8 years. We've gone nowhere in the past three and a half decades.

So, the question is, what did NASA have then that it doesn't have now?

The answer is Resolution.

By resolution, I mean that quality associated with being able to determine what it is you truly want to accomplish, committing to that objective, creating a plan to achieve it, and then doing what is necessary to actually implement that plan.

During the Apollo period, that is how America's human spaceflight program operated. The objective was clear – get men to the moon and back by the end of the decade - the commitment to it was absolute. Accordingly, a plan was devised to achieve that goal in accord with that schedule, vehicle designs were created to implement that plan, technologies were developed to enable those vehicles, then the vehicles were built and the missions were flown.

The robotic space program also operated in that manner at that time, and continues to do so today. That is why it continues to deliver ever greater achievements.

It is not the fact that the unmanned exploration program employs robots that has made it a success. Rather it owes its success to the fact that the people running it are using their brains.

In contrast NASA's human spaceflight program has abandoned this rational approach entirely. Instead of designing things to implement plans, it develops things and then tries to find some use for them. It created the Space Shuttle without any clear idea of what it would be for, and thus it has proved to be of very limited value for supporting human space exploration.

The International Space Station (ISS) was conceived of for the purpose of giving the Shuttle something to do, but requiring that the Station be built by the Shuttle has vastly increased the Station program costs and risks, over-complexified its design, and limited its size, while burdening it with a nightmare twenty-year assembly launch sequence. In contrast, the simpler yet bigger Skylab was designed and built in 4 years, and launched in 1 day. Moreover, the ISS itself has no rational purpose commensurate with its cost, risk, or multi-decadal preoccupation of the agency's time. The fact that this dismal assessment of the Station's value, while unacknowledged, is generally understood, was made amply clear by the sequel to the February 1, 2003 Columbia disaster. Coming down harshly on the space agency, the accident review committee chairman Admiral Harold Gehman pronounced that "if we are to accept the costs and risks of human spaceflight, we need to have goals worthy of those costs and risks." In response, the Bush administration did not even attempt to make the case that the ISS program met that standard. Instead it launched a new initiative to give NASA human spaceflight program something worthwhile to do, specifically a return to the Moon by 2020.

While it is true that flying to the Moon is certainly a more interesting activity than hanging out in a space station in low Earth orbit, creating urine and stool samples so that guinea pig scientists can catalog still more data on the progressive deterioration of human physiology in zero-gravity (which is completely unnecessary, since any competent Mars mission designer would employ artificial gravity aboard his interplanetary spacecraft in order to avoid such effects – unless, of course, he was mutilating his design in order to provide justification for Space Station research), it still fails the test of rationality. We have, after all, been to the Moon six times. Over 300 kilograms of lunar material has

been returned to Earth, and few people show any active interest in them. The big picture regarding the nature of lunar geology is already understood, with further work largely a matter of filling in details. Moreover, the whole subject is of limited interest anyway, trivial in fact, in comparison with the questions of the origins and fundamental nature of life that would be addressed by the human exploration of Mars. And as to the matters of national pride and glory, self and world image, and reassertion of our will as a people to embrace and meet new challenges, one wonders what it says about America if the highest aspiration of our space program is to repeat a mission it accomplished a half century before.

Notwithstanding the above, an even bigger problem with the Bush administration's goal of returning to the Moon was that it was not a real goal at all. Rather it was an attempt to create sizzle, without the steak, since as proclaimed in 2004 for achievement by the year 2020, it did not actually require NASA to do anything towards its fulfillment during the administration's time in office, even assuming a second term. Thus five more Bush years went by, without any Moon mission hardware being built, after which the putative program was handed off to the Obama administration, which had no stake in it.

Thus orphaned, without political protection, without any valid or compelling reason for existence, and without any material progress to show for itself, the program was predictably cancelled. In its place, the Obama administration put first a "flexible path" concept without even a pretense of purpose. Then, when that was found too absurd for even Congress to bear, a pseudo-goal of reaching a near-Earth asteroid by 2025 (i.e. beyond the time horizon requiring any action by the world of the present) was duly proclaimed, and ignored. However, since there are, after all, 27 swing electoral votes in Florida, the administration set forth a fanciful assortment of new projects, including spending several billion dollars to refurbish the Shuttle launch pads after the shuttle stops flying, developing a high-power electric thruster without the very large space nuclear reactor required to drive it, building an orbiting refueling station to service interplanetary spaceships that do not exist, and creating a space capsule that can fly astronauts down from orbit but not up.

None of these strange projects serve any useful purpose, nor could any other alternative random set, not merely because they don't fit together into any functional combination, but because, in the absence of a goal, there is no useful purpose for them to serve. Without question, they'll all be cancelled when Obama leave's office, it not before, without producing anything useful, and after spending another 40 or 80 billion dollars and wasting another 4 to 8 years, we'll be back to square one once again.

Where there is no vision, the people perish.

The American people want and deserve a space program that really is going somewhere. But no goal can be sustained unless it can be backed up, and not by "rationales," but by reasons.

There are real and vital reasons why we should venture to Mars. It is the key to unlocking the secret of life in the universe. It is the challenge to adventure that will inspire millions of young people to enter science and engineering, and whose acceptance will reaffirm the nature of our society as a nation of pioneers. It is the door to an open future, a new frontier on a new world, a planet that can be settled, the beginning of humanity's career as a spacefaring species, with no limits to its resources or aspirations, as it continues to push outward into the infinite universe beyond.

For the science, for the challenge, for the future; that's why we should go to Mars.

The only meaningful counterargument against launching a humans to Mars initiative is the assertion that we cannot do it. This claim, however, is completely false.

We would need a heavy lift launch vehicle (HLV), which we lack, say the opponents, and it would take vast sums and extended periods of time to create one - \$36 billion and 12 years, according to the Obama administration's blue-ribbon human spaceflight review panel. This is nonsense. We flew our first heavy lift vehicle, the Saturn V, in 1967, following a 5 year development program during which we had to invent it as we went along. Today we know exactly what to do. As to cost, SpaceX company president Elon Musk testified directly to the panel that he would be willing to develop a 100 tonne to orbit class HLV for a fixed-price contract of \$2.5 billion. This claim is very credible, since

SpaceX recently developed and flew a 10 tonne to orbit medium lifter for a total program cost of \$300 million. Indeed Lockheed Martin, the aerospace giant formerly led by panel chairman Norm Augustine, has designs for HLVs whose development it prices at \$4 billion.

A human Mars lander would require a huge parachute, the opponents say, much bigger than anything we have used. A large parachute? Please, give me a break. If we could send men to the Moon, we can certainly make a large parachute. Or if we didn't care to do so, we could just use a more modest sized parachute system and complete the landing deceleration using rockets.

It takes too long to get to Mars, they say, so we have to delay launching the initiative until we can develop radically more advanced types of space propulsion capable of getting us there much faster. Wrong. Using existing chemical propulsion, we can go from Earth to Mars in 6 months, and in fact the Mars Odyssey spacecraft did exactly that in 2001. Trips of this duration are quite manageable by humans. In fact, it's the standard tour that scores of astronauts and cosmonauts have already performed aboard Russian space station Mir and the ISS.

We would need a nuclear reactor to power our base on the Martian surface, they say, and we don't have one. True. But we fielded our first practical nuclear reactor in this country, the one that powered the submarine Nautilus, in 1952, and the laws of physics haven't changed much since. We had nuclear power before we had color TV, passenger jets, or push button telephones. Nukes are 1940s technology. We can certainly build the little one needed to power a Mars base.

Cosmic rays, solar flares, zero-gravity health effects, psychological factors, dust storms, life support systems, excessive cost - the list of alleged show stoppers put forward by the naysayers goes on and on. They're wrong on every point.

In this book I will prove that to you. I will lay out in detail a plan for a near-term human Mars exploration that negates or solves every single one of these difficulties, accomplished using technology that we possess today.

The human exploration of Mars is not a task for some future generation. It is a task for ours.

We hold it in our power to begin the world anew.

Let's do it.

Excerpted from The Case for Mars: The Plan to Settle the Red Planet and Why We Must by Robert Zubrin. Copyright © 2011 by Robert Zubrin. Excerpted with permission by Free Press, a Division of Simon & Schuster, Inc.

The updated version of The Case for Mars is available now on Amazon and at your local bookstore.

See video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1Q9CPe1Jlw>

See also the Canadian Space Agency site at:

<http://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/default.asp>

The question that might be put is given the documentary video above could Canada do this project on its own with commercial partners?

Western Press?

I will say that I usually just read and view the Western press in Canada, USA and the UK. I have however recently started to read Russian press and specifically:

<http://sputniknews.com/russia/>

Doing this I have learned a lot that I have never seen mentioned in the Western press. For example here are some headlines from just a single day on 21st October 2015...

Russian Military Progress Evident - Former US Defense Secretary
Iranian Warships Arrive in Russia for Joint Naval Exercises

Russian Central Bank Sees Indicators of National Economic Stabilization
Russia to Begin Tests of Unmanned Tiltrotor Aircraft Before 2016
Russian Eastern Military District Aviation Carries Out 300 Exercises
Moscow Court Arrests All Suspected Members of Hizb ut-Tahrir Banned Group
US and Russia Bicker Over Satellite Positioning in Earth's Orbit
Russian Law Enforcers Detain 22 Islamist Group Members From Central Asia
US Started Hitting ISIL Targets 'After Russian Airstrikes'
China UnionPay System Launches in Crimea Despite Western Sanctions
Russian Airborne Troops Begin Major Drill Near Western Border
Hovercraft From Hell: Russia Designs Next Generation Military Landing Ship
US Coordinates Syria Bombing With Russia Through Israeli Hot Line - Report

There is an amazing amount of military stories and much more than I've ever seen in the Western Press. Just reading them you get the immediate impression that Russia is building up a very modern armed forces in army, naval and air capability.

I have now bookmarked this site to check on a regular basis.

Canadian Update

Canada's next PM makes headlines worldwide

After leading the Liberal Party to a resounding majority win in Canada's 42nd general election Monday, prime minister-designate Justin Trudeau is featured in headlines around the world.

International news outlets reported Tuesday, that the electoral victory ushers in a significant change to Canadian politics. But audiences beyond Canada's borders weren't just interested in the vote count and a new-look government.

Many articles focused on Trudeau himself, mentioning his reputation as a handsome man, his promise to legalize marijuana, and the political legacy of his famous father: former prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

On the morning after Trudeau's big election win, here's a look at how the rest of the world is reporting on Canada's next prime minister and his Liberal Party's victory:

U.K.

The Guardian paper covered Trudeau's win in depth, detailing the party's promises and saying the Liberal government will "spell a sea change ... that will be felt quickly on the world stage."

In a profile of Trudeau, the paper referred to the prime minister-designate as "almost literally born into the role of prime minister."

Meanwhile, the BBC also ran a number of stories on the election, including a profile tracing Trudeau's childhood at 24 Sussex Drive, and his early political career.

France

France's Le Monde reported (in French) on Trudeau's win, quoting the politician's victory speech, in which he proclaimed a victory for "politique positive "or" positive politics."

In terms of policy, the French paper highlighted Trudeau's economic plans, calling the prime minister-designate "particularly committed" to running a deficit in order to increase spending on infrastructure.

Australia

Australia's Sydney Morning Herald opened its story on the Canadian election with a nod to some of Trudeau's non-political feats.

"He is the photogenic son of a former prime minister whose abs and biceps have graced charity boxing matches," the first line of the article reads. It continues, "Now, Canada's Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau has won another fight."

U.S.

Major media outlets in Canada's neighbour to the south all reported on Trudeau's victory.

The New York Times published a story under the headline "Justin Trudeau, following in his father's footsteps," in which writer Ian Austen describes Trudeau's childhood and the time he spent in Vancouver before entering politics.

After describing Trudeau's ascent in the Liberal party, Austen tacks one more line onto the end of his story, writing, "Tall and athletic, Mr. Trudeau boxes once or twice a week."

In its coverage, CNN mused about the "beginnings of a dynasty," calling Trudeau the "son and scion of Canada's first, nascent political dynasty." Elsewhere, an NBC story called him "Canada's liberal, boxing, strip-teasing new PM."

A story by the U.S.-based Associated Press that ran in papers from the Washington Post to the New Zealand Herald, said Trudeau "channels the star power – if not quite the political heft – of his father, who swept to power in 1968 on a wave of support dubbed Trudeaumania."

And outside of traditional media, a number of outlets had some fun with creative headlines and collections of social media reaction to the new prime minister-designate.

In one example, online outlet Mashable ran a story with the headline "The internet is sweating maple syrup over Canada's Justin Trudeau," featuring a collection of tweets fawning over Canada's new leader.



Justin Trudeau tells BBC in London he left Canadian detractors 'in the dust'. Read a report and watch a couple of videos at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/trudeau-bbc-interview-london-1.3337959>

Who's who in Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's new Liberal cabinet
CTVNews.ca has compiled some facts and biographical information of everyone chosen to be part of Justin Trudeau's cabinet.

Read this at:

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/who-s-who-in-prime-minister-justin-trudeau-s-new-liberal-cabinet-1.2642140>

Behind the scenes with Justin Trudeau on his 1st day as PM

Watch this video from the CBC at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/thenational/behind-the-scenes-of-justin-trudeau-s-first-day-as-prime-minister-1.3304991>

Paris attacks: Justin Trudeau says Canada ready to offer all possible assistance
Canadian politicians express solidarity in wake of Paris attacks.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau offered his sympathies to the people of France who are struggling to cope with the deaths of dozens of people following multiple attacks in Paris Friday night.

"I am shocked and saddened that so many people have been killed and injured today in a number of terrorist attacks in Paris, France, and that many others are being held hostage," Trudeau said in a written statement before leaving for the G20 summit in Antalya, Turkey.

"As the situation continues to unfold, Sophie and I join all Canadians in extending our deepest condolences to the families and friends of those killed. It is our sincere hope that the hostages are freed unharmed as soon as possible. We also wish a speedy recovery to all those who have been injured."

French President François Hollande declared a state of emergency and said the country was shutting its borders in an effort to catch the attackers.

Trudeau said Canada was prepared to offer France whatever assistance it needs.

"Canada stands with France at this dark time and offers all possible assistance. We will continue to work closely with the international community to help prevent these terrible, senseless acts."

Canada to resettle 25,000 refugees by end of February 2016

The newly elected Liberal government in Canada will resettle 10,000 Syrian refugees by the end of the year and 15,000 by the end of February.

The government had previously promised to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by the year's end. The Liberals committed to bringing the refugees in during the recent election campaign.

CBC News had reported that the federal government will limit the resettlement to women, children and families only. As confirmed on Tuesday, those who will be considered refugees include families, women at risk, gays and lesbians and single men who are part of the LGBT community or accompanied by parents.

"We want them to have a roof over their head, and the right support," said Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Minister John McCallum. "It takes a bit of time to put that all in place."

"We're happy to take a little more time than originally planned to bring our new friends into the country."

The refugees will be both privately sponsored and government assisted, either registered with the UN Refugee Agency or with the government of Turkey. Government officials promised "robust" health and security screenings, to be done overseas, and said military and private aircraft will assist with transportation of refugees to Canada.

Refugees will go to 36 "destination" cities, 12 in Quebec and in the rest of Canada.

Mr McCallum said the attacks in Paris did not affect the government's decision to slow down the transport of Syrian refugees, citing the logistical struggles with completing the pledge.

Newly elected Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made Canada's acceptance of Syrian refugees central to his campaign.

After the Paris attacks, he reiterated his commitment to ending Canadian air strikes in Syria and Iraq.

Rex Murphy | Canada's role in Syria
A short video from The National

View this video at <https://youtu.be/alki-c6nlmA>

Christmas Tree for Boston

For decades, Nova Scotia has given a Christmas tree to the people of the City of Boston in gratitude for their assistance and support following the Halifax Explosion in 1917.

This tradition of giving is a way for Nova Scotia to express sincere thanks for the help they provided during a difficult time. This year's tree was donated by a Nova Scotian who ran the 100th Boston Marathon.

Bill and Andrea MacEachern of Lorne, Pictou Co., are donating their 15 metre (49 feet) white spruce that is about 72 years old. It will take centre stage of a live broadcast on Thursday, December 3rd beginning at 8pm Atlantic.

You can watch the broadcast live via a webcast on wcvb.com or via cable on WCVB Boston – the ABC affiliate.

Canada named most tolerant country in the world

A new ranking has named Norway the most prosperous country in the world for the quality of its healthcare system, civil liberties and social fabric, while Canada has come out on top as being the most tolerant.

After measuring 142 countries across eight categories, the 2015 Prosperity Index put Norway at the top of the heap, followed by Switzerland and Denmark. In fact, Nordic and Scandinavian countries dominate the top 10 list, taking up half the spots.

For the index, analysts at the London-based think tank and charity, the Legatum Institute, ranked countries based on their economy, entrepreneurship and opportunity, governance, education, health, safety and security, personal freedom and social capital.

A scan of the top-10 list shows that the most prosperous countries -- measured by income and quality of life -- are found largely in the West, with the conspicuous absence of countries from Asia, Latin America, the Middle East or Africa.

Land of the free

Canada also stood out this year for being the “freest country in the world” with its tolerance of immigrants, minorities, freedom of expression and beliefs.

In fact, an overwhelming percentage of Canadians -- 92 per cent -- agreed that their country is a good place for immigrants, and another 94 per cent said they believe that they have the freedom to choose the course of their own lives.

Analysts also noted that Indonesia has become the fastest-rising country on the index, driven by a vibrant economy, easier internet access and improved living standards. The emerging country rose 21 places on the index over the last seven years.

As for the US, the country earned the dubious distinction of being the only Western country to register high levels of “state-sponsored political violence.” The events of the past year -- the Baltimore protests and Ferguson unrest -- pushed the country down to 33rd spot in the safety and security sub-category, making it comparable to Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador.

Here are the top 10 most prosperous countries according to the Legatum Institute:

1. Norway
2. Switzerland
3. Denmark

4. New Zealand
5. Sweden
6. Canada
7. Australia
8. Netherlands
9. Finland
10. Ireland

Miss Canada World denied entry to pageant in China



I reported on this issue in a previous issue of the Canadian Templar. Now we hear that Anastasia Lin, the winner of Miss World Canada, says that she has been denied the right to compete in this year's Miss World competition because she has spoken out about Chinese human rights abuses.

Read more at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-34884495>

Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement reached

Canada has become a founding member of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a 12-country trading block which together accounts for 40% of all world trade that will enjoy a significant drop in tariffs nearly across the board while fundamentally changing the nature of the North American auto industry and nudging Canada's supply-managed agricultural sectors towards greater international trade.

On a deal like this there will be winners and losers but overall Canada should do very well through this agreement. What it will mean is that businesses will need to work harder to take advantage of this deal and if they do Canada can do very well with this deal.

In 2014, global Canadian exports amounted to US\$474.8 billion, up 22.8% since 2010. Canada's top 10 exports accounted for 65.8% of the overall value of its worldwide product shipments.

Based on statistics from the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database, Canada's total Gross Domestic Product amounted to \$1.579 trillion in 2014.

Therefore, exports accounted for about 30.1% of total Canadian economic output.

Given Canada's population of 34.8 million people, the total \$474.8 billion in 2014 Canadian exports translates to roughly \$13,631 for every person in the country.

The following export product groups represent the highest dollar value in Canadian global shipments during 2014. Also shown is the percentage share each export category represents in terms of overall exports from Canada.

Oil: US\$128,926,515,000 (27.2% of total exports)
Vehicles: \$59,753,479,000 (12.6%)
Machines, engines, pumps: \$32,600,025,000 (6.9%)
Gems, precious metals, coins: \$21,518,760,000 (4.5%)
Electronic equipment: \$13,639,592,000 (2.9%)
Plastics: \$13,192,128,000 (2.8%)
Wood: \$12,686,263,000 (2.7%)
Aircraft, spacecraft: \$12,409,459,000 (2.6%)
Aluminum: \$8,865,363,000 (1.9%)
Cereals: \$8,774,059,000 (1.8%)

Note that almost a third of our exports come from the energy and mineral sectors which right now are at an all time low. It does seem to me that our exporters must do better but there does seem to be lack of vision by them. In my opinion we don't promote our country to the world enough in business and tourism. Having lived and worked in a number of different countries I can say that you almost never hear about Canada in the daily news across the world.

2015 Nobel prize in physics: Canadian Arthur B. McDonald shares win with Japan's Takaaki Kajita

Arthur McDonald, a professor emeritus at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., is the co-winner of the 2015 Nobel Prize in physics.

McDonald will share the prize with Takaaki Kajita of the University of Tokyo.

The winners were announced by a committee at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm on Tuesday. McDonald and Kajita will split the 8 million Swedish kronor (almost \$1.3 million Cdn) prize.

The academy said the two men won the prize for their contributions to experiments demonstrating that subatomic particles called neutrinos change identities, also known as "flavours." The neutrinos transform themselves between three types: electron-type, muon-type and tau-type.

The metamorphosis requires that neutrinos have mass, dispelling the long-held notion that they were massless. The academy said the discovery "has changed our understanding of the innermost workings of matter."

Kajita said his work was important because it showed there must be a new kind of physics beyond the so-called Standard Model of fundamental particles, which requires neutrinos to be massless.

Working at the Super-Kamiokande detector in Japan, Kajita, in 1998, showed that neutrinos captured at the detector underwent a metamorphosis in the atmosphere.

Meanwhile, researchers at the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, as also known as SNOLAB, were looking at neutrinos that come from the sun. McDonald, who has been director of the observatory since 1989, discovered in 2001 that those neutrinos from the sun also changed their identities.

Learn more at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/nobel-prize-physics-2015-1.3258178>

BBC Pop Up films your Canada stories

I read this with interest and hopefully it's still available as you read this at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/live/magazine-32969581>

World first: blood-brain barrier opened non-invasively to deliver chemotherapy

This study is funded by the Focused Ultrasound Foundation. The research equipment is funded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation and Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation, with support from

the Bombardier Foundation. The research has also received significant support from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and National Institutes of Health. Dr. Hynynen holds the Canada Research Chair in Imaging Systems and Image-Guided Therapeutics. The focused ultrasound apparatus and technology are Insightec's Exablate Neuro System.

Read more at:

<http://sunnybrook.ca/media/item.asp?c=1&i=1351&f=blood-brain-barrier-focused-ultrasound-chemo>

Canada at 100 Million

Building on the arguments made in the classical 2010 Global Brief article, "Canada – Population 100 Million," which made national and international headlines, 21CQ will be making the case in favour of a Canada that, by the year 2100, is far larger, more energetic, more ambitious, and more powerful. By the year 2100, this Canada will: -

- have a population of 100 million people (spread across its territory).
- be among the five most important countries in the world, and the second most important country in the West (after the US, but more important than any of the EU states).
- Have most sectors of national society, from business to the arts, sports, science, the academy, politics and geopolitics, populated by world-beating leaders with a 'hockey mentality.'

21CQ will be making its arguments for a Canada of 100 Million through conferences, publications, public interventions and, among many other vehicles and platforms, a ground-breaking initiative, led by award-winning documentary-maker Kenton Vaughan, developed with the participation of the National Film Board, called "SuperCanada" – an interactive project coinciding with the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

Read more at:

<http://www.i21cq.com/should-canada-have-a-population-of-100-million-by-centurys-end-3/>

Keystone XL may be dead. The oilsands probably aren't

There is some soul searching going on in the oilpatch this week in the aftermath of the U.S. rejection of Keystone XL. Would a carbon tax have changed things? A gentler hand with the politics? How much of the U.S. decision was connected to increases in their own domestic production?

What they aren't asking is how to get oilsands product to market. Because it's getting there, in ways both obvious and unexpected. The oilsands have lots of problems, like low prices and high costs. But right now, market access is pretty far down the list.

You can read more about this at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/oilsands-keystonexl-dead-low-oil-1.3312494>

Remembrance Day 2015: Why John McCrae's In Flanders Fields still resonates.

Poem written by field surgeon continues to inspire others a century after publication

When Micah Brodovsky pauses to consider his favourite words in the iconic First World War poem In Flanders Fields, the Grade 8 student's mind drifts to a line near the end.

It is a simple line — "If ye break faith with us who die" — and comes in the third and final stanza of a poem not only much memorized, but, arguably, etched deeply into the Canadian psyche over the 100 years since it was written.

"The soldiers are dead, but you have to help their memory live on," says Brodovsky, a student at the Guelph, Ont., school named after the poem's author: Lt.-Col. John McCrae.

Read more about this and watch a video at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/in-flanders-fields-1.3312135>

We remember: Canadians mark Remembrance Day at Ottawa ceremony

Canadians gathered under a grey sky in Ottawa Wednesday 11th to mark Remembrance Day, in a solemn service honouring the country's veterans and fallen soldiers.

Thousands attended the ceremony at the National War Memorial in Ottawa, expected to be the largest service in the country. Smaller ceremonies were held across the country, as well as in the U.K. and in France.

Veterans of all different generations attended the Ottawa ceremony, from those who fought in the Second World War to more recent veterans who served in Afghanistan.

Watch the video show at:

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/remembranceday/we-remember-canadians-mark-remembrance-day-at-ottawa-ceremony-1.2652974>

Canadian History

Maple Leaf's Red Cross

The War Story of the Canadian Red Cross Overseas by Mary MacLeod Moore

An excellent read which you can download at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/forces/mapleleafsredcross.pdf>

Island of Great Spirit: Manitoulin

Island of Great Spirit explores the complex and often conflicting relationships between the Anishinabek, the French, the British, and the settlers, who have all shared the Great Manitoulin and its resources. Manitoulin was designated as a First Nations territory, exclusively for their use. In the mid 19th Century, westward migration made the island and the area near it desirable to whites and the government acted to make it available to them. The program details how that was handled and the outcome. The Treaty of 1862 split the First Nations off into reserves and the rest was open for non-native settlement. The legitimacy of the treaty was much disputed, leading to confrontations and violence. In the end, the government used its power to enforce the treaty and stop the protests. The program goes on to show how social and economic changes evolved from the 1870s to the present day. Today, native and non-native residents alike share a sense of community and feel a great spiritual connection to Manitoulin.

We have a 2 part video about the history of this largest fresh water island in the world.

Part 1

<http://tvo.org/video/documentaries/the-shield/the-shield-island-of-great-spirit-manitoulin-part-1>

Part 2

<http://tvo.org/video/documentaries/the-shield/the-shield-island-of-great-spirit-manitoulin-part-2>

Religion

Christie Redfern's Troubles

By Mrs Robertson (27th impression)

The requirement of the gospel is that, having first given ourselves to Christ, we should then devote all we have, be it little or much, to His service. The largest gifts fall infinitely below what He deserves from us; the smallest will not be rejected by Him. For it is the motive, not the gift, which our Lord regards. The poor widow's mite was more acceptable to Him than the ostentatious and lavish donations of the wealthy. Yet the smallness, the seeming worthlessness, of our means is often pleaded as an excuse for withholding them altogether. Because men can do so little, they do nothing. It was the servant who had received only one talent that wrapped his lord's money in a napkin, and buried it in useless, unprofitable obscurity. When the multitudes hungered in the wilderness, the disciples hesitated to bring the five barley loaves and two small fishes, asking, 'What are they among so many?' They were taught, however, to produce their little all, utterly inadequate as it was to the

exigencies of the case, and lay it in the hands of Omnipotent Love, that He might by His blessing increase it to the feeding of the five thousand. God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world and things which are despised hath God chosen, yea, and things that are not, to bring to nought things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence!

This great truth is admirably illustrated in the following pages. In the life of Christie Redfern we may see how the simple desire to serve God, felt and acted upon by a poor, suffering child, may give an almost heroic strength of character, and may produce results, the magnitude and grandeur of which are altogether out of proportion to the feebleness of the means employed.

You can download Chrstie Redfern's Troubles at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/Religion/troubles.htm>

The Ten Commandments

Not a bad way to live your life no matter what religion you believe in or for that matter none.

Also known as the Decalogue, are a set of commandments which the Bible describes as being given to the Israelites by God at biblical Mount Sinai. The Ten Commandments appear twice in the Hebrew Bible, first at Exodus 20:1–17, and then at Deuteronomy 5:4–21.

Here they are in short form...

You shall have no other gods before Me.

You shall not make idols.

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet.

The 10 Commandments List in Exodus 20:2-17

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
You shall have no other gods before Me.

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

"You shall not commit adultery.

"You shall not steal.

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

Ten Commandments in the Quran

You might like to also view this article at

<http://www.islamreligion.com/articles/5114/viewall/ten-commandments-in-quran/>

Religion and Belief Equality in Scotland

Results from the 2011 Census in Scotland show that Scotland is becoming more ethnically and religiously diverse, with an increasing number of people living in Scotland being born outside of the UK.

From the Census, almost 3,000,000 self-identified with a faith community, down from almost 3,400,000 in 2001. Those who stated no religion rose by over 530,000 from 2001, whilst those who did not state a religion rose by almost 90,000.

Over half (54 per cent) of the population of Scotland stated their religion as Christian whilst 37 per cent of people stated that they had no religion - an increase of nine percentage points since 2001. Those who identified as Christian saw a decrease of about 11 per cent whilst most other religions either remained the same or experienced a small percentage increase.

Religious education in England needs overhaul

Religious education in England's schools needs a total overhaul to bring the subject into the 21st Century, argues a report.

Religious belief has changed sharply in recent years but religious education has not kept pace, says the Goldsmiths, University of London, report.

"Content should reflect the real religious landscape," said co-author Prof Adam Dinham.

The government says its approach promotes knowledge of all religions.

The report comes after a High Court ruling that the government made "an error of law" in leaving "non-religious world views" out of a new religious studies GCSE to be taught from next year.

Non-believers

The report, RE for REal, considers the subject throughout the education system.

Teaching is currently required to reflect mainly Christian traditions while also taking into account the teaching and practices of other principal religions - but official statistics from the 2011 Census showed an increasingly fractured pattern of religious belief, argue the authors.

Christianity was the largest religion in the 2011 Census, with 59.3% declaring themselves Christian, while Muslims made up 4.8%, but the proportion who said they had no religion rose from 14.8% in 2001 to 25% in 2011.

"The religious landscape now includes religious traditions, informal religion and beliefs as well as non-religious world views," said Prof Dinham.

"We think non-believers and those with informal beliefs need to be treated more seriously as a growing part of the picture."

That picture has been further complicated by the exclusion of RE from the EBacc performance

measure, which has led to teaching time for the subject being squeezed in many secondary schools.

In addition, academies and free schools, which will soon become the majority of schools, are exempt from following locally agreed RE syllabuses.

This makes the need for clarity "pressing", says the report, with an "urgent conversation" needed about the future of learning about religion and belief.

National approach

Interviews with teenagers across England revealed a desire for the truth beyond media stereotypes of major religions and a feeling that religious education was increasingly important, says the report.

But even the name of the subject is a major problem, argue the authors.

"It has a really low status and it needs a new name," said Prof Dinham.

Ideas put forward included "religious literacy", "religion and belief studies" or "religion, belief and secularity studies".

Primarily, the authors recommend a national panel to develop a new statutory framework for the subject which would be applicable to all schools and would balance a national approach with local needs.

It should also be compulsory for all students to 16, they add, though taking it at GCSE should remain optional.

Daniel Hugill, chairman of the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education, said the key was better training for all teachers of RE.

"This report confirms what RE teachers know already, that the students in their classrooms value the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of the phenomena of religion and belief...

"In order for every young person to experience high quality religious education we need the Department for Education and school leaders to value and make further investment in teacher training and ongoing professional development.

"It is only when teachers are well-trained, confident, and knowledgeable that they can equip students with knowledge of lived contemporary religion and belief."

The government did not directly respond to calls for reform but a Department for Education spokeswoman said religious education was vitally important to help children develop the British values of tolerance, respect and understanding for others.

"It prepares young people for life in modern Britain and that is why it remains compulsory at all key stages.

"Local authorities are responsible for drawing up locally agreed syllabuses that must be followed by maintained schools without religious designation," said the spokeswoman.

Lord's Prayer cinema ad snub bewilders Church of England

The Church of England has said it is "disappointed and bewildered" by the refusal of leading UK cinemas to show an advert featuring the Lord's Prayer.

The Church called the decision "plain silly" and warned it could have a "chilling" effect on free speech.

It had hoped the 60-second film would be screened UK-wide before Christmas ahead of the new Star Wars film.

Read more and see the advert at <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34891928>

Editors Note: It would seem that all over the world the Christian religion is under threat. I have been reporting declines in Canada, USA and Europe for some time now and obviously Christians in the Holy Land are declining fast due to being exterminated by various Muslim faiths.

I would call on our Ministers and religious leaders to be more active in telling us why the Christian religion is important. Tell the story in simple terms so that people will understand it and how it can be applied to their own life.

The Canadian Templar should be used to tell the story of Christianity and encourage all to get involved in protecting our religion. How best to communicate its beliefs to others. In Canada we get reports that Canadians don't want to talk about religion but they'll talk about anything else. We must turn this around and I call on everyone to talk about religion with their family, friends and colleagues. If our ministers and religious leaders can't do it then we need to do it ourselves.

I grew up in a Christian home and we said grace before our meal. Do our Knights and Dames still do that? I went to a school where prayers were said each morning at assembly yet it appears we don't do that any more. We also had one class each week on religious instruction. It appears we don't do that any more either. I personally blame Ministers and our religious leaders for this. They have allowed this to happen.

I might add for clarification I was brought up in the Church of Scotland so went to Sunday School and usually attended church on Sunday. I don't actually go to church on Sunday any more but I still call myself a Christian as I do believe in the 10 commandments as a base value for the way I live my life.

As to our Order... can anyone name our Religious leader in the order? Have you read anything about him? Have you ever seen a communication from him?

This is why in this issue I have highlighted the 10 Commandments as in my view it's a great way to live your life even if you are not a believer.

The World is Changing

Acharya Ramamurti - Director, Shramabharati, Bihar

The world is changing, and changing fast. Technology, education, health, eating habits, dress - there is hardly anything in life that is not changing, some changes we like, while others create fear and anxiety.

Everywhere there is a feeling of insecurity. What will happen to us tomorrow, or what will happen to our children, are questions we keep frequently asking. One thing, however, is clear. It is no more possible to live in the way we have been living so far. It seems that now the entire fabric of life will have to be changed. Life will have to be redesigned. The life of the individual, the social structure, and governance—all will have to be replanted.

One of the greatest changes that has taken place lies in the political sphere. The age of Rajas and Maharajas has gone forever. No more are the landlords too. The other great change that has taken place is that every adult man or woman, rich or poor, high-caste or low-caste, has now a vote. All adults are entitled to vote and participate equally in forming their government. Thus, politically, we are all equal.

In another field an alarming change has taken place. Small weapons of violence, with or without license, are now freely available. One can get them at one's door. One can go about with explosives in one's pocket! The age of lathis has gone; the age of bombs has come. That may be one reason why people are becoming more and more violence-minded. Look at our elections. They look like battles. Political parties have become caste—organizations mutually fighting for power. Our society is a cobweb of castes. One result of adult franchise is that it creates fear in the minds of those, who have enjoyed monopoly of power until now. Those, who ruled and those, who were ruled both have realized that the world is changing. Democracy has come, but there is one thing that we have yet to learn. Why should neighbours not sit together, solve their common problems and resolve their petty conflicts without going to the courts of law? The pity is that there is no dearth of leaders, but they do not come and tell us these simple things. They come to us; they ask for our votes in the name of

caste, religion, or our group interests. But they never explain to us the things that matter seriously in life.

Change is pervasive. There is no end to it. Man has already reached the moon. He may soon reach other planets. Who knows, a day may soon come, when a new earth may be found—a new flourishing civilization. Who knows what wonders are in store for us!

Whatever the faults and failings of our civilization, man in his onward journey spread over a vast number of centuries, has achieved a great deal. Our ancient Rishis discovered that there is basic unity in creation. Life is one. It is whole. This basic law became the basis of all the spiritual thoughts that developed later. It is an eternal law. It holds good even today. Without it we cannot think of any new phase of civilization. There is a cosmic power that moves everything, and everything, big or small, is an expression of that cosmic power.

As against those that delved into the realm of the spirit, there were the scientists, who discovered the mysteries of nature. The scientists and the technologists made tools, devised machines that made life livable.

The present-day civilization stands on two legs. One is spirituality, and the other is science. The two together have made civilization what it is. The two must come together in a planned manner, to create a better and happier life.

Imagine how man's mind has developed. On the one hand man went on discovering new ways and values, and on the other he continued to fight. Endless wars have taken place throughout history. War and violence have been man's never ending story of life. The western world, in spite of all the scientific achievements, goes on waging wars. It fights one war, and prepares for the next war. There are quite a large number of people in the west who consider that peace merely means an interval between two wars.

Let us clearly understand that peace is not an interval between two wars. On the other hand peace is a way of life. It is a whole culture of life; it includes the social fabric and governance both. It is nothing less than that. If once we accept that peace is merely the period between two wars, we shall have to concede that man is a fighting animal. He loves fighting. He cannot live without it. Therefore he cannot live without an enemy. If there is no enemy, he will fight with his neighbour. Fight he must. The strange thing is that while man craves for peace, he loves to fight. We worship divine incarnations, but we present them as fighters. By placing the weapons of war in their hands, we made God in our own image. To us divine power must express itself in the form of power, the power to fight, and the power to kill and conquer. Hindus regard Rama and Krishna as incarnations of God, but we placed bow and arrow in the hands of Rama, and 'Sudarshan Chakra' in the hands of Krishna. Both these are weapons of war. Does this mean that we want even God to fight?

Karl Marx was the first man to say that all civilizations developed by man so far have been rooted in violence. How true! When Marx's opinion was presented to Gandhi and he was asked, "Do you agree?" He replied, "Yes, but add two words more including Indian." We Indians are always proud of our civilization being spiritual. But we also placed weapons of war in the hands of our 'Gods.'

Men the entire world over, are anxious that wars should now end forever. Not only wars, he wants all violence to stop, not for once but for all time to come. If this change comes about, it will be the profoundest change that humanity has ever seen. But if this goal has to be achieved we shall have to change much that we have valued so far. We can never hope that our ways of living should remain as they are, and only war and violence should end. Change, if at all, has to be total, comprehensive. And it has to be continuing.

A change in the fundamentals of living has to be universal. If we continue to need war, there is nothing that can stop it. If war is necessary, violence will continue. Why should we need wars? Why should one man exploit the other? All talk of war and exploitation is now out dated; violence is anti-life itself.

Is spirituality now a spent force? Has science become bankrupt? Are they unable to solve this crisis in the human civilization? Either we abolish war or we perish. Violence or life, the choice is clear.

Humanity has reached a point where the choice before it is clear; it is between violence and existence.

Freedom from violence does not only mean freedom from war. It is fundamental; but there are other things equally necessary. We need to plan our lives in a better way. Even the apparatus of the state should be so planned that it becomes less and less coercive. In all the three spheres, the life of the individual, the arrangement of group-life in society and its governance, the process of diminishing violence should go on continuously. If this happens, we shall begin to feel that our civilization is changing. For a new civilization we need both science and spirituality a happy blending of the two.

Along with the rest of the world, India too is changing. But some of these changes create fear. People wanted a peaceful life after the British had left, but they are not getting it. The average person has a better life because there are more physical conveniences now. A more comfortable life is not necessarily a happier life. A happy life needs peace and security first of all. Both are somehow missing. Pervasive insecurity is a dangerous thing. It leads to the demand for a strong government, which may lead to an authoritarian government. Do we think that a popular demand of this kind will be a blessing? It will be a sad day indeed if we have to barter away our freedom and democracy for the sake of more comforts. But that possibility cannot be ruled out. It is time we sought an alternative and showed people better ways of living, happier lives, happier and more secure lives. Our constitution is based on democracy. People want bread but they also want "Izzat" (Self- respect). One cannot be denied for the sake of the other. In this age of planning, there is no reason why some people should continue to be victims of ignorance or social injustice. Cannot good planning do this? Cannot we guarantee basic amenities for all? Our spiritual tradition tells us that all creatures—not men alone—have the right to live and prosper. Democracy does not mean only election. Man wants opportunity to grow and attain new heights. He wants a higher life, a better harmonious life.

So, the first necessary change should be in the field of democracy. The whole pattern of democracy has to change. Our country lives in its villages and cities; therefore, our democracy has to reach the people in their villages and cities. But this can be possible only if representative democracy is replaced by participatory democracy in which people will be called upon not only to vote for others but to become active citizens, being called upon to shoulder responsibilities—live together and learn together, and together to create a better life for all. It means that there should be fewer laws and less dependence on government. A better society has to mean less and less government. We have already introduced a scheme of Panchayatiraj, then why not handover Panchayats to their Gramsabhas and let them function freely?

The fact is that our villages are not integrated communities: They do not even co-operate among themselves. There is no life-sharing. Therefore, the first thing necessary is to try to convert these groups of houses into communities, in which families are free to live their own lives but they have to realize that there is much that is common among them, what is common has to be shared. Sharing has to be planned and accepted willingly. This is where development has actually to begin.

Democracy has created a universal desire for a free and better life. But the reality is that democracy as practiced by us does not lead to the fulfilment of our desire. It rather leads us in the opposite direction. We know that although the present age is one of democracy, yet, there are countries, big and small, developed and less developed, in which democracy has yielded place to authoritarian rule. It is a known fact that because of adult franchise millions of people have become builders of power. Power is no more a monopoly of a few. This is a great thing that has happened for the first time in human civilization. But when we see that for the smallest things we have to run to the market and for the pettiest quarrels or conflicts we have to run to the courts for settlement, the question naturally arises in our minds whether our democracy is leading us to self-rule or it is taking us in the opposite direction. Is it that in 1947 power was not transferred to the people, but to a new set of rulers though Indian? Swaraj is much more than rule by others, whoever they might be. Swaraj really means self-rule. If we want Swaraj, we have to rule ourselves.

We find that machines are becoming smaller and smaller day-by-day. Electricity has reached villages, if not yet our homes. Then how is it that industries have not come with small machines and electricity? What has actually happened is that industries already existing in our villages have disappeared. Where have they gone? To distant countries? Or, they disappeared all together? Looking at things from the angle of law and order or peaceful neighbourly living, we have begun to

look to the government for the pettiest things. We have an all-powerful bureaucracy. We seek its interference and it is ever ready to interfere. Shall we call this 'Swaraj'?

There is only one way out of this total crisis – participatory democracy and Mahila Shanti Sena. We must prepare to redesign our lives, to redesign our social order and rebuild our governance. Let us remember what Gandhi said: That government is the best that governs the least. Each village community has to become a unit of 'Swaraj'. That is, it should be able to plan its total life in terms of its economy, education, health and other things pertaining to local life. The village community needs an army of peace-workers, who will not fight among themselves but willing to solve problems and resolve conflicts and disputes peacefully. In this task of neighbourhood-building, women are likely to do better than men. That is the rationale of Mahila Shanti Sena. The police or the court should be approached only when a serious crime is committed, not otherwise. In cases of petty disputes, neighbours should sit together and decide, and not make it a matter of prolonged litigation in a court of law. Lord Buddha gave us a principle of harmonious group living. He said: 'meet, talk and agree'. Go on talking till an area of agreement emerges. This is the key principle of a happy and harmonious neighbourly living. In a participatory democracy a decision by majority is out of place; all decisions should be by a consensus. There is no room for a permanent majority and permanent minorities. Decision by majority is one of the most potent reasons why our democracy has turned into perpetual caste-war. Experience so far has proved beyond doubt that a democracy cut up into political parties is bound to lead to endless caste-rivalry in a country like India with its divisions of castes, religions etc.

It is unfortunate that our democracy has come to be confined to capitals, towns and cities. It goes to the villages only once in five years, when leaders have to seek peoples' votes. This country enjoys the pride of being the world's first republic in Vaishali and also giving rise to India's first empire - the Magadh Empire. If we want an alternative, it is there in our tradition. Gandhi in his legacy left for us a complete blue print of redesigned local, national and global life. Alternatives we already have. What we need is the will to make use of them. Through our long tradition built over centuries by ancient 'Acharyas and Rishis' what we need is to integrate them with modern science and technology.

In short, what we need is a change in the life of the individual, in the structure of society and in governance. This three-fold change will lead us to more changes and in course of time, we will have total change. It will be a process of moral evolution.

The point at which humanity has reached in its march forward in civilization, it must stop to think how it proceeds further. Obviously, what it needs is a total culture of peace. Gandhi foresaw this crisis in human civilization. It is this realization that inspired the philosophy of constructive work. This philosophy really means a new total creative revolution. This was made clear by Jaiprakash Narayan in 'Total Revolution'. Gandhi and Marx both came to the same conclusion namely that the ending of state as a coercive force is essential for the liberation of man. While Marx stood for the complete withering away of the state, Gandhi wanted state to act as a co-coordinating force. It is obvious, according to both revolutionaries that we should plan a strategy that is calculated to bring about a slow but progressive withering away of the state as a coercive power. That will be the real goal of the new creative revolution.

In the world today, there are about 200 countries, which have adopted democracy as a mode of governance. But whatever the form of democracy as it is practised in the world today, democracy is a halfway house. Democracy and peace have to go together. Without peace democracy has little meaning and without democracy peace has no practical form. It is democracy that makes peace a force. Both together will take humanity several steps forward in civilization. But we should remember that peace is not just an interlude between two wars. It means a total culture of peace, nothing less.

Peace as a force of civilization has to be both creative and constructive. The question is: who will be the vanguard of humanity's evolution in the process of civilization? Nature has made woman the most creative force. Can we not use her creative talents to make society more human and enlightened? Woman created the family and men created the state and government. Obviously, of the two, woman is more creative. Local life is comprised of families. The family is the starting point of the culture of peace. The circle around the family should include the group of families in the neighbourhood and thus the circles will go on till a day may come – may be few centuries hence to come when they will include the world and go even beyond the world to include the entire creation. After all man has

reached the moon. Does it not show that he has already entered the inter-planetary phase of civilization? This explains why the first step that Mahila Shanti Sena has planned to take is that of neighbourhood building. By building the neighbourhood we lay the foundation of our dreams.

The first step will naturally lead to succeeding steps. If this succeeds it will be possible to introduce participatory democracy at the roots. And, for sometime it may be possible for both representative and participatory democracy to exist together. But then the basic constituency will be the Panchayat, not the party, a group or an individual. There will be no room left for organizations based on castes. The Panchayat is bound to be a mixed constituency.

Nation should be organized in local units. These units will go up in an ascending order to district, region, state and nation etc. The market will shrink in the sense that trade will be confined to surpluses. The market is a dominating force today. It will cease to exist as such. The market will be there because society needs it, not because market needs customers. Why should there be wars then? This will in course of time lead to a wholesale change in the life of the individual, in the structure of society and in the form of government. It will be organised around neighbourhood that will have their own economy, polity, education, and even religion. Humanity will thus have a new culture. This culture will not be parasitical. It will be a productive culture. India's culture in spite of its emphasis on spirituality gave birth to a kind of feudalism, which degraded the woman and enslaved the labourer.

The new change, which looks very much like a dream today will have enough room for everybody to grow, to his/her full height. May be, this will happen in the moral stage of civilization that will come after the democratic stage. For that a great deal of transition planning will be necessary. But let us take the first step in the right direction.

Geomantic Information Systems; Exploring Axis Mundi, the Earth Grid, the Holy Grail and Ley Lines

By Cort Lindahl

My friend Gary Gianotti urged me to contact you with regard to some of my observations on the origins of the St. Andrews Cross. This design was incorporated by Constantine into the Labarum symbol. The stories of the value of this symbol by Constantine and Angus resemble each other very much.

In short this information exposes a great deal of manipulation of information on the part of popular TV shows and writers. They are seemingly telling a story that is 180 degrees from the truth using all the same components of truth to make it seem real. It is hard not to imagine that this serves some sort of political agenda. Maybe that is paranoia but there is much to suggest that the Knights Templar are being "blamed" for many things that the Catholic Church and the Knights of Malta did.

I will include a link here to a story I just completed that exposes the truth of both the "Et in Arcadia Ego" theme as well as the true origins of the Labarum in the Cross of St. Andrew. Andrew was crucified on an X shaped cross representative of the Roman Legio X Equestris. So there is a tantalizing hint for you.

I have recently received a genealogy done by my Grandmother Marjorie Sutherland in the 1970's. Note this name in association with the Sinclair family. I am descendant of the Sutherland's of Forse via my Grandmother. Her mother and father at the least understood what her name is representative of. The Forse Sutherland's derive from the original Sutherland's prior to the title going to Gordon. It was very interesting to discover that Sir John Sinclair designed the more modern plan of Thurso, Caithness where my ancestors are from that came to America. Sir John's design included an octagonal Church. He also had a correspondence with Thomas Jefferson and George Washington. My work has exposed the true nature of these octagonal structures in the establishment of a prime meridian. This is all based on a value of the Tower of the Winds in Athens on the part of Constantine.

Please read my article if you have time. Let me know if you would like to speak on skype or telephone. I also have several online interviews of me discussing this material. Though it was not my

aim all of this disputes everything we see Scott Wolter saying as well as the more recent show about Pirates that Wolter appeared in. These people are spinning a fairytale that has to have another reason behind it than what they are saying.

I enjoyed your work on the Kirkwall scroll though my findings differ a little. Critical mass would be reached and the world would end if two researchers ever totally agreed. LOL. The article about the Kirkwall Scroll I wrote is also on the blog but this link will take you to the Story of Et in Arcadia ego and St. Andrew. Thank you. - Cort Lindahl

<http://survivalcell.blogspot.com/p/et-in-arcadia-ego-solved-by-way-of-st.html>

Geomantic Information Systems; Exploring Axis Mundi, the Earth Grid, the Holy Grail and Ley Lines

"I have held up a light in the obscurity of Philosophy, which will be seen centuries after I am dead. It will be seen amidst the erection of Tombs, Theatres, Foundations, Temples, Orders and Fraternities for nobility and obedience — the establishment of good laws as an example to the World. For I am not raising a Capitol or Pyramid to the Pride of men, but laying a foundation in the human understanding for a holy Temple after he model of the World. For my memory I leave it to Men's charitable speeches, to foreign Nations and the next Ages, and to my own Country after some Time has elapsed." -- Francis Bacon, Advancement of Learning (1605), Bk II.

"I'm going to build my secrets into the geometry of these buildings because I know books can be burned but buildings not so easily." -Thomas Jefferson

"SACRED TOWERS OF THE AXIS MUNDI IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE. CLICK FOR SALES:
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Join me to explore the hidden tenets of arranged alignments of architecture and art. Structures as diverse as the Great Pyramid, Baalbek, The Tower of the Winds, Hagia Sopia, Basilica San Vitale, The Dome of the Rock, St. Peter's Square, Gisors, The Newport Tower, Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, and the Georgia Guidestones all may have a common origin.

Three reproductions of the Tower of the Winds in England help to display how this age old value is viewed through time. Along the way many legends and myths associated with the Holy Grail and other relics are examined.

Treasure myths such as the Oak Island Legend and The Beale Treasure Legend may have a common origin and hidden meaning. The tale of The Bruton Parish Church Vault (a.k.a. "Bacon's Vault) may also be a copy of an already existent mystery at Stirling Castle.

The Bones of St. James found at Jamestown Virginia... Video Gallery of the Geographic Mysteries The Geomancy of St. Peter's Square and the Vatican (Overview) The Truth about The Beale Treasure and Thomas Jefferson. The Strange Tale of the Kirkwall Scroll, The Great Cyclic Cross of Hendaye, and the Great Seal of the United States of America. The Truth about the Shepherds of Arcadia and the Kensington Rune Stone.

The Truth about the Shepherds of Arcadia and the Kensington Rune Stone.

Et in Arcadia Ego Solved by way of St. Andrew and the Kensington Rune.

The winter of 43 B.C. Patras Greece

Tough winter it was relatively warm as we entered the protected harbor of Patras in ships that Octavian had procured for us. He was to become emperor in part due to his role in avenging Julius Caesar's assassins. We are the Legio X Gemina carrying the standards from many battles always loyal to the emperor. We were all being granted farms near Patras. A beautiful reward for the efforts of the X Legio (Tenth Legion).

October 28, 312 A.D. 20 kilometers north of the Circus of Rome.

It was the day prior to the most important battle in your life if not the entire scope of history. Tomorrow you would meet Maxentius in a battle that would decide the fate of the entire western world. As you rode along the dust rose from the road as your standard bearer beside you kept the flag aloft for the legions to follow. The sky was an azure blue broken only occasionally by white puffy clouds that resemble a lamb's fleece. Suddenly the monotonous sounds of the march were broken by excited exclamations.

Men pointed to the sky in fear and awe as what appeared to be a gigantic X appeared in the sky. It appeared as the letter Chi or X in your native Greek alphabet and was formed by two long thin clouds that formed the symbol perfectly with the sun shining through behind them. This had been the same symbol that your mother valued in association with her Christian faith. Mother was always after me to believe in the fisher of men and that the way of Christ was the one way to salvation of the soul. Though she seemed happy with this notion I found a value of Mithras and more ancient mystical beliefs suited my ambitions to rule. Still many of my Legions were adapting the faith of my mother. The appearance of the sign she valued was an omen that should be taken advantage of to inspire these men to defeat Maxentius for the glory and benefit of all Romans. Maxentius also had many Christian soldiers and it would do good to let them see that God was on our side. I would order the men to paint this design on their shields prior to the battle.

A Spring day in Scotland in the year 832 A.D.

A strange dream had awoken you in the night. This figment was so real that I wasn't sure if I had still been asleep when a strange cloaked figure had entered my tent and kneeled at my bedside. I was not afraid as the figure began to pray over me in a strange language that I could not at first understand but heard after a short time. This was a vision of St. Andrew who had come to insure the righteousness of our victory against the oppression of the Saxon's to the south. By my name Angus we rid this land of the invaders and persevere in our way. I awoke in the morning not sure if this had been a figment of my mind or a reality.

The other race from the south led by King Aethelstan had been harassing us for months burning our towns and cities. These Saxon's were determined to rule the entire sunny Isle upon which we existed. With our proud race we had descended from the noble Kings of ancient Egypt and Scythia. We would fight to the last. As we marched towards what would be our destiny my standard bearer stayed close. The men were restless and anxious to settle this dispute and go on with their lives. Suddenly the men were yelling and pointing at the sky as if the sun itself were falling from the sky.

A great sign in heaven had appeared in the azure blue sky. A giant X shaped formation of clouds appeared to be blazing with a helios of a corona making flames and fingers of light that added even more to the stunning effect. The men fell to their knees in reverence. Some one yelled:

"It's the Cross of St. Andrew! The Apostle has come to grant us victory in Battle and the righteousness of Christ in our fight!"

With this a cheer went up from the ranks and we all felt as if our endeavor had been smiled upon by our Lord and St. Andrew himself. It had been St. Andrew in my dream! The dream was real! He had sent me a sign of victory. Surely this was a good omen to be valued. Inspired by this strange event the troops were invincible that day and sent back the invaders to lick their wounds and regret ever coming to the northlands. The sign seen in the sky, that of St. Andrew would now be our standard and symbolize our independence. Like Constantine I had seen the sign that would bring us victory in our cause.

The above fictional events may reflect some real history.

Though the actual date of his crucifixion is unknown St. Andrew was crucified on an X shaped cross in Patrias, Achaea, Greece in about 50 AD. The use of an X shaped cross was likely associated with the X Roman Legion or Legio X Gemina that had been garrisoned in Patras since after the Battle of Actium. This legion had helped Octavian eventually win the crown and become Augustus Caesar. The tenth had always been a favorite of the Emperors due to their reputation for loyalty. They had been established as an elite mounted force of soldiers by Julius Caesar and they were considered to be this

era's version of Caesar's personal bodyguard. Many of the concepts seen in the organization and deployment of the Tenth Legion would contribute to the development of equestrian Knighthoods later in European history.

The symbol of the X or Roman numeral 10 is associated with the Legion. Since by the time of Andrew the Legion and all of its families had lived in Patras for nearly one hundred years this symbol became part of the cultural identification of Patras itself. This is likely why at the time of St. Andrew's persecution that he was crucified on an X shaped cross. This is likely in reality a reference to the Legio X of Rome. So this may be the true origin of the St. Andrew's Cross in iconography.

It is interesting that a symbol that was born in warfare can come to represent an apostle so obviously committed to peace and understanding between people. It is in this way that the "X" in symbology and iconography became a "good" symbol in the minds of many with its association to such a clearly defined ecclesiastical figure.

Eventually the Cross of St. Andrew would be combined with the sky blue background to form the Scottish Flag. The origins and value of the Scottish flag are the same in myth and origins as the Labarum symbol of Constantine. Both symbols feature the X symbol of St. Andrew. It is also entirely possible that the Skull and Crossed bones is also referring to St. Andrew's Cross. The family arms of Sir Issac Newton for instance are comprised of Crossed Bones without the Skull included. This design appears as a St. Andrew's Cross comprised of bones. So this crossed pattern while having many interpretations may also be associated with St. Andrew.

These two amazing stories of the Milvian Bridge and Angus the Pict are very similar. Constantine after seeing what is known as the Labarum symbol in the sky led his troops to victory against Maxentius and went on to establish one of the most important and successful reigns in Roman or Byzantine history. It is the reign of Constantine that saw Christianity take hold and become a major force in the history and development of western culture. Later Angus would see the Saltire X in the sky in a story very similar to the way Constantine had sighted his symbol of victory. Both men were valuing the Cross of St. Andrew though this is not discussed in association with Constantine and his value of this symbol. The origins of the Scottish Flag and the Labarum symbol seem to have a common origin in the legacy of St. Andrew. It may also be inferred that the similarities behind the use of these symbols and the stories of their origins was not a coincidence. It is likely that Constantine was aware of the legacy of Legio X in Patras and knew the reality of what this symbol represented. This may also be why more modern equestrian brotherhoods identify with Constantine and the Labarum symbol. It is a tradition of the Roman Legions as much as a sign of Christianity.

Though it is disputed where Constantine's mother Helena was from it is clear that Constantine grew up in what is today Serbia once part of the more ancient region of Macedonia or Greece. Other sources state Constantine's home in Northwestern Turkey near Byzantium so either way he was clearly from the Greek cultural sphere and grew to maturity in the same region in which Andrew had come to. This is indeed the region that was evangelized by Saint Andrew after the time of Christ's resurrection. As Constantine grew up he was likely exposed to Christian concepts such as the Cross of St. Andrew that forms the letter X. At the same time given his Imperial background he would have been aware of the significance of the Roman numeral X and its relation to the Legions of Rome and that division's glorious history.

The brand of the faith that Constantine was exposed to was influenced more by Andrew than any other figure besides possibly Christ himself. Andrew by many accounts was crucified on an X shaped cross and not a T shaped cross like Christ was crucified on. This is the reason the Cross of St. Andrew is an X shape. It seems obvious given the culture and region that Constantine grew up in that the shape he would adapt as a sign of Christianity would include the X shape in veneration of St. Andrew. Constantine would add elements to the basic Labarum sign that referred to the Alpha and Omega of Jesus.

If we follow a value of the symbols and shapes valued by Constantine as later adapted by Angus and other Scotsmen we may see it apply in a secret way to many of the mysteries that are examined here. A true understanding of this symbol applies to many different historical questions such as the strange runes present on the Kensington Rune Stone, and the presence of associated symbols seen at other places like Rosslyn Chapel, The Great Cross of Hendaye, The International Peace Garden,

St. Sulpice, Palacio Monctezuma, Rennes le Chateau and several other places. The association of this symbol with Legio X Gemina and Equestris gave the X a special meaning to later Knighthoods and Orders that valued this aspect of the symbols interpretation.

Eventually Andrew's remains would be interred at the Church in Patras, Arcadia, Greece. After the Fourth Crusade the Duchy of Athens and Neopatria were formed in Greece along with the Principality of Arcadia that would be ruled by the Princes of Achaia (Arcadia) including the Anjou Prince's of Achaia Charles I, II, and III. The Anjou's would be representative of what would become a hidden value of St. Andrew in addition to their fascination with Mary Magdalene. The nearby Crusader State of the Duchy of Neopatria also included the Oracle at Delphi within its boundaries. The nobles of Aragon who had intermarried with the lines of Frederick II HRE and the Anjou's held control of the Duchy of Athens and Neopatria from about 1210 to 1270.

In this fashion we may be seeing the Normans occupying a culture region of Greece that had had an impact on their culture via the myth of Apollo travelling to Boreas to teach the population the ways of the Greeks. Boreas is even one of the Gods featured on the Tower of the Winds that had likely also inspired Constantine in the building of his octagons. An examination of the history of the Hauteville legacy coupled with that of Frederick II and the Anjou's displays a desire of these dynasties to take over what was left of the Byzantine Empire during the fourth crusade. This era also saw the development of groups like the Knights of St. John and Knights Templar developing and appreciation for the Labarum symbol and its military meanings coupled with the association with Constantine and his version of Christianity.

It is as if they were aware of their legacy as exposed here and had waited hundreds of years to take back what they felt was their cultural origins. This may have been one of the lesser known aims of some of those that took part in the Crusades. This interest on the part of these families may also expose a belief that they were related to Constantine and their value of St. Andrew was a result of this belief. Even the Greek City name of Argos is a form of the name "Aragon." This may be one of the values of what Fulcanelli terms "argotique" or gothic art. This interpretation may expose the final meaning as being "Aragon art." Does this infer that the Aragonese believed they were somehow descendant of people from Greece? Many things that they and the Hauteville dynasty did reflect some truth to this idea. The name of famous astronomer and cartographer François Arago's is also derivation of the Aragon dynasty. He is also from territory once encompassed in their domain.

It is likely that the entire theme of the mysteries that we see in the term "Et in Arcadia Ego" or "in Arcadia I am" is referring to the legacy and remains of St. Andrew as displayed in his life and in the similar stories of the value of the Cross of St. Andrew on the part of Constantine and Angus.

This may even comprise the information concealed in the "secret" discussed of in letters associated with Nicholas Fouquet and Marie of Guise (to different individuals). Fouquet describes a secret held by Nicholas Poussin that would have a great impact on the power of the church. This is odd since Poussin was associated with Jesuit magi Athanasius Kircher who was a master geometrician and scholar. It appears as if Poussin may have included in his "secret" in part the information being exposed here for the first time. The inscription of "Et in Arcadia Ego" seen in two of his works is the main clue linking to St. Andrew who preached and is interred in the region of Arcadia (Achaia) in Greece. St Andrew is the one in the tomb being examined by the Shepherd's of Arcadia.

St. Andrew was crucified on an X shaped cross in Patras Greece. His remains subsequently were kept as relics in the Church there. Through history his relics have been spread to a few different churches and Cathedrals with the Catholic Church actually returning a large portion of the skull and other parts to the Greek Orthodox Church in 1980. The Greek Church has built a magnificent Basilica reminiscent of Hagia Sophia though somewhat smaller to house the remains. St. Andrew the Patron Saint of Scotland is also the Patron Saint of Russia who has readapted the Order of St. Andrew at the fall of the Soviet Union.

All of this new information combined may also give further rationale to the theory that Constantine had built an octagon on the Temple Mount and had been interred beneath it at the time of his death. This had been the information that the Templars had found beneath the Temple Mount. Constantine had left them a mystery and it involved the concept of St. Andrew and the symbol that represented him.

Nicholas Poussin was the artist who created the painting "The Shepherd's of Arcadia" that introduced the mystery of "Et in Arcadia Ego" mostly to fans of the Rennes le Chateau mystery as presented in the book "The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail." Many people are forced to ask themselves the question:

"So. What is in Arcadia that we are supposed to see here and apply to this mystery?"

The answer to that question would include a resounding:

"You are supposed to find the story of St. Andrew and his cross and how Constantine used it. Following this cross symbol and others will lead you to the truth."

It is possible that the entire mystery of Rennes le Chateau or more specifically the Devil's Seat and Rennes le Bain may be associated with a mystery referencing St. Andrew and not Mary Magdalene. This could point to the unpleasant assumption that a mythology of Mary Magdalene has been applied to a place that has more to do with the legacy of St. Andrew than her. The mysteries of Rennes le Chateau and Rennes le Bains may have different themes yet are linked together by those assuming that these places are part of the same question. It is possible they are and that Mary Magdalene is involved but this is unclear at this point. This may also apply to the presence of a rendering of Poussin's "Shepherds of Arcadia" being featured on the Shepherds Monument at Shugborough Hall. As discussed the orientation of this statue itself points an arc on the globe to the International Peace Garden on the border of the United States and Canada.

The use of the term "Et in Arcadia ego" at Rennes le Chateau and Shugborough Hall as it applies to Scottish history and St. Andrew is exposed in the spatial relationship of the octagonal Kings Knot at Stirling and how it points to the Star in the landscape of Rennes le Chateau with the orientation of the Star pointing back to the Kings knot. The star and Kings Knot seemed to have been arranged intentionally to reflect this talismanic spatial relationship. The line or arc on the globe that connects these two places crosses the Tower of the Winds at Shugborough Hall firmly establishing a geographic topology or scheme that displays all the components need to solve the mystery. Both Rennes le Chateau and Shugborough contain the "Et in Arcadia Ego" reference that is truly referring to Constantine and St. Andrew. Many who study the Rennes le Chateau conundrum have no idea how closely Scottish people are involved in the tale they value so much.

It is obvious that all of this architecture was likely arranged by Scottish and other European people that have a Norman legacy tied to the Hauteville family. This would have included all of their family relations in the Kingdom of Aragon. This does include the Cult of St. James as displayed in Scots nobility coupled with their veiled veneration of Constantine in the form of the Saltire X and blue background of the Scottish Flag. It is clear that the Anjou's and Aragonese had a distinct value of both of these concepts and took part in the arrangement of talismanic architecture. In fact it is clear that any Scottish value of these mysteries had come from their Norman brothers and sisters of Spain and Italy. All of this adds up to inform one that the lone letter "X" near the top of the Great Cyclic Cross of Hendaye is indeed the Cross of St. Andrew.

St. James' encounter with Our Lady in Zaragosa and all the legends of Girona, Rennes le Chateau, Perillos, and the Holy Grail at both Montserrat Monastery and San Juan de la Pena all take place within the territorial dominion of the Aragon dynasty connected with the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II and the Anjou's. The Aragonese dynasty also includes direct connections to English and Scottish royalty that would connect them all together in this possible belief that they were descendant from Constantine who may in turn have been convinced he descended from St. Andrew or Christ. It is clear given the region where Constantine is from coupled with his mother's Christian faith that the Cross of St. Andrew inspired the design of the Labarum. Many of the "argo" references in Fulcanelli's book "Mystery of the Cathedrals" are actually referring to the Kingdom of Aragon in a metaphorical way. It's all about the "Argotique" or "gothic art."

The Kensington Rune has been discussed in detail earlier in this book. The stone seems to have been left to mark the boundaries of the Hudson's Bay Company at some point prior to or early in its history. It is clear that it may have been left at any point from 1230 to 1700. The HBC was established in 1670 with Prince Rupert of the Rhine as governor. It is clear that Prince Rupert was part of the Hauteville axis of power that valued these symbols. The historical dynamics of this region would

dictate that the stone was placed by element of the Hudson's Bay Company with the older included date to indicate the era in which people were first sent to explore the continent during the era of Rollo and the Norman occupation of western France. This also corresponds with the era of the establishment of L' Anse Aux Meadows and the advent of the magnetic compass. Alternately Rollo had actually deposited this stone near the headwaters of the Mississippi River and it was later used as a boundary marker. It is also possible that a party sent by Rollo had travelled to the west coast in the region of the mouth of the Columbia River thus enabling them to situate a central axis a point (Turtle Mountain) that was representative of the east to west axis of the Continent at this latitude.

The Kensington Stone even contains the premiere secret symbols of our specific families beliefs or secrets as seen in many early versions of the Labarum symbol. The Kensington Stone includes these runic characters given in a Masonic cipher from Scandinavia that was popular right at the time of the establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company. The symbols or decipherment of them on the Kensington Stone do include versions of the Labarum and Auspice of Maria symbol that are valued here. As we may see this symbology has nothing to do with Mary Magdalene beyond some confusing the Auspice of Mary symbol as referring to her because they contain the same name.

Early versions of the Labarum included the Greek letter "A" which appears with a 'v' shaped crossbar on the left side of the "X" or St. Andrews Cross portion of the design. To the right at the same yet opposite position the Omega Greek letter is displayed as a kind of sideways numeral 3 that resembles a double treble hook used by fishermen (of men). This version of the Labarum symbol and the secrets of St. Andrew are what is being referred to on the Kensington Rune. Not Mary Magdalene. It is more likely that followers of Mary Magdalene would use any symbol associated with Mary Mother of Jesus as a coded way to refer to her. So this symbol was not originally created and designed to represent Mary Magdalene. The same may be said of the individual Auspice of Mary symbol that resembles the letter A. This is a symbol of a consecrated location and also serves as the logo for St. Sulpice. So this symbol also was not designed or originally used with Mary Magdalene but may possibly be viewed in a secret manner by her followers.

The letter "rho" or P that is included in the Labarum is the Imperial sign that is included in this symbol. This letter "P" is a representation of an Imperial Standard or pennant and is also an Egyptian hieroglyphic symbol for "ruler." In some forms of Egyptian hieroglyphs the symbol of the X when combined with the P shape could mean "City of Ruler." In hieroglyphics these symbols are never combined so this may be a coincidence.

The strange letter X seen on the Kensington Stone is that portion of the Labarum that includes the X itself and a representation of the Omega symbol in the small portion of it that extends inward from the right arm of the X. This design was made to resemble the hooked shape design of the Omega symbol in tandem with part of the X that is already there.

Elsewhere on the stone the individual letters AVM (Ave Maria) appear to display or suggest the Auspice of Maria which is present on the Labarum symbol to the left in the form of the letter "A" with the "v" shaped crossbar that resembles what would come to be known as the Compass and Square of Freemasonry. In this way we may see a deeper interpretation of that symbol as it associates with Our Lady, Constantine and St. Andrew. These symbols on the Kensington stone combined give us the image of the Labarum, Constantine, and St. Andrew all in one easy to read sign. Ultimately these symbols seem to refer to Constantine in a secret way. Note that two letters "X" combined next to each other also produce the AVM Auspice of Mary Symbol. Ave Maria.

The "story" told in the English language decipherment of the runes on the stone that tells of men being killed and buried may be a vehicle simply to display these symbols so that those in the know will realize who actually left the stone where it was originally discovered. These symbols also relate to the family heritage of those that established the Hudson's Bay Company all the way back to the Hauteville's, Stewarts, Hohenstaufen's and more.

The strange X and AVM symbols on the Kensington Stone are telling you that the group of people discussed here are the ones who left the stone. This includes the entire legacy of this family line from the time of Christ to the establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company and beyond. In the process the Knights Templar have been attributed with many of the historical events and activities that this family group along with the Knights of Malta and Catholic Church have perpetrated. Along the way they

have blamed every distasteful and morally repugnant thing they have done on the heads of the Knights Templar who no longer existed during the time any of this happened. Indeed the historical Knights Templar no longer exist and no one is here to defend them from competing orders who had existed since the dissolution of the original Knights Templar in 1307.

Given recent popular narratives we are being led to believe that the Knights Templar created the Kensington Stone, Newport Tower, and more. The Templars are blamed for being Pirates at a time when they did not even exist and were being hunted down or hiding in other orders. Every strange incidence of history is attributed to this group of people who ceased to exist in 1307 while the above-mentioned groups continued with no impediments to anything they wished to do. The Templars had once kept this gentrified group in check via the use of second born nobles who had the interest of the Order in mind as opposed to their family legacies. This is likely one of the reasons the Knights Templar were disbanded and demonized in such a manner. This is why they are blamed for being "Pirates" at a time the order did not even exist. In a move that would signal what would later come of the Templars Frederick II HRE actually banned them from existence in Sicily. It's political. Hint: There is an island called Malta that served as a Pirate base for the Hauteville dynasty for hundreds of years.

It also speaks to the reasons their "pardon" was only recently brought to light. It also suggests that the Knights Templar may have only played a limited role in the development of Scotland after the time of Robert the Bruce. There is a great deal of evidence that the Knights of St. John (Malta) may have been behind many of the events and people that are attributed to as being "Templars." This confusion has been added to through history by the fact that many past historians seemed to refer to any Knighthood associated with the crusades as "Templars." The similarity in the use of the Teutonic Cross and Cross Patee may have contributed to this confusion in the minds of the public. That's o.k. they like you are confused.

All of the symbols present on the Kensington Rune indicate the involvement of the Catholic Church and a Knighthood associated. Even the date present on the stone, if valid, would indicate that the "Templars" had not been the ones to leave this stone. Given all of this it is still not clear when the stone was deposited as the same family line has a legacy of the value of this region starting at the time of the Roman Emperors yet not likely fully taken advantage of until the time of Colonial settlement and the creation of the Hudson's Bay Company. It is the earlier surveying trips of these people through time that have led to many misunderstandings and misinterpretations. Some of these trips may have included an intentional or unintentional interference in Native American culture in a manipulative way. Later in history as Spain subsumed Mexico many intelligence service ploys seemed to have been used against Native groups so it is not too hard to image this going on at any point during the contact phase of European interaction with Native Americans. These kinds of psychological techniques had been deployed against their own enemies in Europe so why would they not employ some of these "Heart of Darkness" cargo cult techniques on these other people? There are some Native American sites like Newark Earthworks and Serpent Mound that seem to have had some influence from another culture possibly that of Central America. It is also possible that both of these sites were influenced by early explorers associated with the family groups and organizations that may have surveyed what they thought of as their property periodically in the past.

There is a symbol at Rosslyn Chapel that conforms to what is being said here. Though it is graffiti it resembles the X seen on the Kensington stone with the addition of the Omega on the right crossbar of the letter. The difference in this rendition of the same symbology includes the verticie of the X having a "V" added below it to form the Auspice of Maria showing the letters "A" and "M" together with the Cross of St. Andrew thus suggesting the Labarum which is a solidly Catholic symbol not related to Mary Magdalene. Recent examinations of the Newport Tower by Gary Gianotti include him discovering both the Auspice of Maria (Mary) symbol in conjunction with the sideways numeral 3 design of the Omega symbol. Some one had also added this message in graffiti to the Newport Tower at a date sometime after its construction.

As seen in our examination of the Great Cyclic Cross of Hendaye and Ronda Spain a form of the Auspice of Maria symbol using two laterally combined letters "X" is present on the lintel of the entryway to Palacio Monctezuma in Ronda. It is present on the headstones of some of the past Priests of Rennes le Chateau. Many times this symbol seems to occur in relation to Jesuit symbols such as at Rennes le Chateau, Chateau Abbadia, The Hendaye Church of St Vincent, and the Church of St. Martin in Sara France. Again all of these places once ruled by Hauteville descendants via the

Kingdom of Aragon as well as the Basque Culture. All of the mysteries of this region seem to include the concepts of St. Andrew, Mary Magdalene, and St. James.

It will be shocking and hard to believe for many who are drawn to the genre of the Grail Quest to believe this but much of this has been crafted for us in order to teach one a lesson and educate you to the truth of history.

END

The story of the Kirkwall Scroll can be read at:
<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/kt7-12.htm>

The Secret Maps of the Knights Templar and Holy Grail in America, A video by Cort Lindahl can be viewed at https://youtu.be/ER9g_L9EQRc

I also have a page about him at:
<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/articles/Lindahl.htm>

Video's worth watching

Knights Templar (New Documentary 2014)
This documentary examines the buildings of the Templars and is well worth watching at:
<https://youtu.be/MeyJ8PAUyQs>

Have you proven God exists?
This series examines evidence from science and the natural world that reveal the plain truth about the existence of God. You can view this multi-part video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbxD04LWW10>

Recipe

Cornish Pasty



This came from the Tin Miners in Cornwall, England. The idea is that the miners would take this meal into the mine and have it for their lunch. They held it by the crimped edge and ate the rest throwing away the edge. As their hands were dirty and had things like arsenic on their hands this make an excellent way to get a meal down the mine.

I might add that I spent a couple of months in Cornwall many years ago and this was a favourite lunch of mine as I'd often sit on the beach eating it or outside one of the many pubs with a pint of beer.

Here is the recipe which makes 4 pasty's.

For the pastry

125g chilled and diced butter
125g lard
500g plain flour, plus extra
1 egg, beaten

For the filling

350g beef skirt or chuck steak, finely chopped
1 large onion, finely chopped
2 medium potatoes, peeled, thinly sliced
175g swedes, peeled, finely diced
1 tbsp freshly ground black pepper

Method

1. Rub the butter and lard into the flour with a pinch of salt using your fingertips or a food processor, then blend in 6 tbsp cold water to make a firm dough. Cut equally into 4, then chill for 20 mins.

2. Heat oven to 220C/fan 200C/gas 7. Mix together the filling ingredients with 1 tsp salt. Roll out each piece of dough on a lightly floured surface until large enough to make a round about 23cm across – use a plate to trim it to shape. Firmly pack a quarter of the filling along the centre of each round, leaving a margin at each end. Brush the pastry all the way round the edge with beaten egg, carefully draw up both sides so that they meet at the top, then pinch them together to seal. Lift onto a non-stick baking tray and brush with the remaining egg to glaze.

Bake for 10 mins, then lower oven to 180C/ fan 160C/ gas 4 and cook for 45 mins more until golden. Great served warm.

Watch this video on how to make leftovers into a Cornish Pasty courtesy of the River Cottage at:
<https://youtu.be/R4ZmBTPH3NY>

Homegrown authors share a few of their favourite recipes and warming personal stories to go alongside. - See more at:
<http://booksfromscotland.com/2015/11/homegrown-recipes/>

A Wee Bit of Humour or Not

An Obituary printed in the London Times.

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- And maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death,

- by his parents, Truth and Trust,
- by his wife, Discretion,
- by his daughter, Responsibility,
- and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 5 stepbrothers;

- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm A Victim
- Pay me for Doing Nothing

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

You gotta love British humour

Watch this short video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7AXskSxxMk>

Just For Laughs: Gags

Watch this video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Rhd4JqEY2Y>

Notable Upcoming Events

Canadian International

St James Priory, Christmas Cheer at Long Bar at the RCMI, 14th December.

St James Priory AGM - 11th January 2016, at Reilly Group Head Office at 3434 Dundas St, Toronto. M6S 2S1 at 7.00 pm

St James Priory, Templar Ball on Feb 27, 2016 at Fountain Blue, 200 Princess' Blvd, Toronto, M6K 3C3

OSMTH GMC, Copenhagen, Denmark 13-17 April 2016

OSMTH Grand Convent General Sofia, Bulgaria 12-16 October 2016

Priory Contacts:

Grand Priory of Canada

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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](#)

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