

The Canadian Templar



Happy Canada Day!



July 2013

Newsletter



Our Grand Priory keeps expanding!

News and Report from the Grand Prior

Happy Canada Day! As the above picture depicts, our Order is growing. Last month Edmonton had its Investiture and invested four Knights and Dames and recognized two young pages. Congratulations and welcome to Timothy Desroches, Rev. Dr. Joanne Neal, David Skrypichayko, and Annelise Van Der Made, and the two new pages, Graeme MacDonald and Sean Borle. Chevalier Bert Malo and Chevalier Martyn Phillips were both promoted to Knight Commander in recognition of their efforts and dedication in helping the Edmonton Commandery develop. I am pleased to report that the members of the Commandery are very enthusiastic and are well poised for growth under the leadership of Commander Rob MacMullen. Let Chev. Rob know if you have family or friends in the Edmonton or Calgary area that might be interested in joining the Order.



Simon Peter's Prior Elect, Bill Megill travelled from Ottawa to support the event, and while there he delivered sports equipment destined for the First Nations kids in the far North, an Ottawa charity initiative. The following weekend the Knights and Dames of the Ottawa Priory provided nourishment and encouragement to their city's annual Aphasia Walk, Talk 'n Roll marathon. The marathon is a main fund raiser for the organization and key charity for the Priory of Simon Peter.

Then the following weekend, on June 7, the Priory of Simon Peter in Ottawa had their Investiture and Banquet as well as a Change of Command. Three new Knights and Dames were invested. Congratulations and welcome to Paul Gauthier, Christopher Killacky, and Louise Mercier. Prior Joe Peters turned over command to Col (ret'd) Bill Megill. Being Prior is a very time consuming

appointment and we all thank Sir Joe for his dedication and commitment to the building of Simon Peter, especially while having such a young family. I know he will continue to be active in the Order. Sir Bill Megill has jumped into the breach with both feet and I am looking forward to working closely with him and his leadership team in Ottawa. Unfortunately Prior Emeritus Ted Griffiths was unable to join us for this fine event. Ted, we missed you and your family. Christopher Killacky travelled all the way from Halifax to be invested in our order. A small group is starting to take shape in Halifax. Again, know anyone in the Halifax area? Ottawa?

On June 1st, Toronto's St. James Priory had their annual Benevolent Ball at the Fountainbleu restaurant at Exhibition Place. I had the distinct pleasure of attending the dinner and meeting many interesting Knights and Dames and their guests. It was first class from start to finish. Congratulations to Nick Migliore and his team for putting on such a great event and obtaining such fine donated gifts for the auction. Many of the charities that were being supported from the proceeds were highlighted on the big screen throughout the night. Many guests became more familiar with the Order and I know several inquired as to how they could become part of our organization. I encourage others to try to make the event next year.

The Priory of the Ascension of Our Lord had their quarterly business meeting and speaker's dinner on June 4. After the dinner Canon Lance Smith and The Vicar General, Ronald Matthewman, prayed over LCol Morris Brause and asked for God's protection for brother Morris as he departs for Afghanistan. Morris will be the senior staff officer for the Canadian contingent as we continue to train the Afghan Army and then next year pull our Forces from the country.

The Vicar General and myself attended the Grand Magistral Council (GMC) meetings in Tomar, Portugal, in mid-March. Tomar is the home of an historic and well maintained Templar site, Tomar Castle. We had a tour of the castle and the Investiture and Banquet were held there as well. It is an amazing site and the people of Portugal were very hospitable. Grand Commander Disney has had several meetings with the Government of Portugal and local politicians as they have proposed to OSMTH to have us call Tomar our cultural headquarters. The only obligation to our Order is to have a meeting held there once a year, either local, national, or international members. For more on Tomar see the article below in the International News section. Be sure to check out the embedded link to a YouTube tour of the castle. It is definitely a place to put on your bucket list.

At the GMC in Tomar the OSMTH Grand Priors from all the 21 countries around the world met, held elections and selected the top three elected positions of our Order. At the next GMC in Athens Greece, September 18- 21, the new positions will be sworn in: Grand Commander Col Marcel Picciotto, Deputy Grand Commander BGen Ron Mangum, Chancellor General Rev. Dean Perti Ruotsalo. If you would like to go to the Athens GMC, all are invited and you can find more in the information letter from the Grand Prior of Greece. Also, Sweden was welcomed into our Order as a new Grand Priory, with LCol Johan Adolphson being installed as their first Grand Prior.

I highly recommend that at some point in time you attend an International Congress and Grand Magistral Council meeting. You will be pleased you did and will no doubt go to more. If you are not able to attend Athens this fall, but would be interested in participating in the OSMTH GMC in 2014, it will be held in Bristol England, mid-October. More to follow.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

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

Notable Upcoming Events

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

[August 18th, 2013: Summer Social in Harrow](#)

[September 14th, 2013: St James Priory Investiture, Toronto](#)

[September 18-21, 2013: Athens International Congress](#)

[Download Agenda and Booking form here in pdf format](#)

If any would like to go please have them contact Sir Peter after they have followed the attached

instructions and filled out the forms. Hopefully we will have a contingent from Canada.

November 2nd, 2013: Priory of the Ascension of our Lord Investiture, Windsor

Forward news of any upcoming events at your Priory to alastairi@electricscotland.com

News from the Priory of Ascension of Our Lord, Windsor

Over the past several months, many of our Knights and Dames of the Priory of The Ascension have received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for services rendered to the community. I am certain many Knights and Dames of other Canadian priories and the Commandery have also been similarly recognized for their service, with the presentation of the medal and we would like to congratulate all the recipients of this award. As we remember from the Brussels Declaration "aiding humanity on the pilgrimage through life" is our moral code and these Knights and Dames have epitomized that code perfectly!

One of our Knights who is going above and beyond in the area of service is Lieutenant Colonel Sir Morris Brause CD. Sir Morris has recently relinquished command of The Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment and is soon to be deployed to Afghanistan for a period of nine months to one year. We send Sir Morris off with wishes for a safe and productive deployment in Afghanistan and we look forward to his return to Canada!

At our annual dinner meeting one of our new Knights, Sir Peter Berry spoke about the Sandwich Teen Action Group and their efforts to clean up Parts of the west end of Windsor, which have become run down through neglect and misuse. Sir Peter is the Harbour master and has taken a personal interest in the project as well as the collection of non-perishable food for the underprivileged folks of the area. We congratulate Sir Peter and thank him for his work in the community! (Sir Peter talked about the collection of food in the last edition of this newsletter)



Sir Peter Berry addresses our dinner meeting

Our thoughts and prayers are with Canon Andrew White, The Vicar Of Baghdad as he negotiates these perilous times in Iraq. We also offer our prayers for the congregation of the Church Of St George in Baghdad.

At our recent June Dinner meeting our member Knights and Dames approved our charitable donations for the year. I am attaching the list of charities and the amounts donated for your perusal. We are particularly proud to be able to donate, on the international level, to the Jordan River Project and to Canon White and his work with the Church of St George in Baghdad.

Friendship Club, programs for adults with disabilities. \$1,000

Second Chance Ministry, provides transportation and other emergency requirements for those in need. \$1,000

The Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East. to support the work of Canon A. White, the Vicar of Bagdad, \$3,000

The Salvation Army, to support their local programs, \$2,000

The Military Family Resource Program, to provide support programs for military families, \$2,000

St. Leonard's House, Windsor, a half way house for male adult offenders, to assist the funding of the chaplaincy program which recently lost federal govt. funding, \$3,000

Jordon River Project, to join other Pories and Grand Pories around the world in financing the building of a church and aid centre on the River Jordon, \$6,000.

More about this project can be read at:

<http://www.osmth.org/humanitarian-projects/jordan-river-project>

Total donated \$18,000

You may remember the artwork donated to the Priory by Carol DelCol entitled "The Knight Before Christmas". At our recent dinner meeting we were treated to a novel form of auction in which our auctioneer, Sir Terry Fink, auctioned tickets for the artwork. The tickets were put into a hat and one number was drawn by the Vicar General. The number chosen was in the possession of Dame Theresa Kelly (we think) and she and Sir Peter Kelly (our Grand Prior) will be the guardians of the artwork for one year at which point it will be returned and we can have more fun auctioning it off again! I am delighted to report the auction raised over \$500 for the WellCome Centre (women's shelter) and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Sir Roy and Carol DelCol who created, framed and donated the artwork and to Sir Terry Fink, who came up with this novel and fun way of auctioning it.

Thank you to all who participated in this worthy effort!



The Knight Before Christmas artwork.

We are happy and proud to support our sister Pories and on June 8th six of us from the Ascension

Priory travelled to Ottawa to participate in the Simon Peter Investiture. It was a very moving ceremony in which three Postulants were invested and a new Prior was installed. Our best wishes go to the three newest members of the Priory and to the Past Prior Sir Joe Peters, as well as the new Prior, HE Colonel Sir Bill Megill CD!

One other significant event that occurred at our June dinner meeting was the presentation by Sir Michael Beale on The Great Canadian Flag Project. Sir Michael has highlighted this project in a previous Newsletter and he brought his presentation to our group to make us aware of the efforts of a few citizens to mark our riverfront with the symbol of our nation! Thank you Sir Mike!

We look forward to working with our sister Priories and Commandery to make our Order larger and better!

Submitted by Major (rtd) Roy Embury CD, GOTJ.

News from St James Priory, Toronto

Saturday June 1st was a great night for the St James' Templars . . . the 2nd annual Benevolent Ball when over 200 people gathered at the Fountainbleu on the grounds of the CNE.

After the fellowship and good humour that derive from an open bar, Sir Nick Miglione, Chancellor and Fund Raising Chair, greeted the guests. The Grand Chancellor, H.E. Dame Nola Crewe offered up the grace of a grateful people and the National Anthem was sung by two of the great singers who enhanced the evening. Music, dancing and a silent auction guaranteed the evenings success: both financially and socially.

The Grand Prior, H.E. Sir Peter Kelly, took advantage of the gathering of so many people interested in supporting our work in the Holy Land to give them a taste of what it takes to be a Templar and the rich rewards that follow. And with the team on the Membership Committee following up on the seeds that were planted, we expect to see new Templars at next year's Banquet.

Our congratulations to everyone who donated their time, talents and items for the auction. Teamwork makes great things happen: and the 1st of June was a great night for the Knights.

They have created a pdf about the ball along with some pictures which can be [downloaded here](#).

The Priory has started up a new social networking site at:

<http://stuartwross.com/charities>

A New Communications initiative

By Sir Stuart W. Ross

Improved communication has been acknowledged as a top priority at a Priory and Grand Priory level in 2012 and in 2013. The focus of our communication is both external audiences and members within the Order's Priories and Grand Priories.

Early in 2013, a communications pilot initiative was established within St. James Priory. Focusing upon communication and community within the Order, a custom online "social" network was established, with the entire membership of St. James Priory joining in May.

The url for the network is <http://stuartwross.com/charities/>

The importance and significance of relationships and communication extends to the early origins of chivalry and a knight's education. The activity of apprenticeship and mentoring has been integral to the the development and persistence of knighthood. The wisdom and best traditions of chivalry including the community of expertise, service and faith were curated amongst the community or order of knights. Knowledge, leadership, mentorship and service are vital qualities in the individual and

collective success of our Order.

Knights, by forming into units, increased their military function and strengthened the command and coordination of the unit. Unit formation provided a significant force multiplier to their military effectiveness. It also strengthened the individual experience of each knight. Over time, an individual knight would absorb the experience of repeated group success tailoring their prospect for even more significant individual achievements.

This same group or community amplifier applies to the modern-day work of Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani and every effective non-governmental or charitable organization today.

It is not the “destination” of community but the “act and effectiveness of community” that this pilot of St. James has established as its goal. Technology networks, bearing the label ‘social networks,’ are increasingly important in the organization and delivery of services of charities and NGOs. They have learned that these tools are resource multipliers through the faster sharing of knowledge, ideas and plans, in reducing distance and increasing interpersonal communication and relationships.

The success of our Order’s activities is entirely dependent on group contribution of knights at the Priory and Grand Priory levels. The opportunities for a chivalric or knightly mentorship and education is through the function of active communication and relationships between experienced knights and new knights or postulants.

The network is available and accessible to anyone who has a computer, an internet connection and an updated (free) Internet browser. There are some sections of the network that may be viewable to the public but access is only available to most of the functions using a unique username and password. This network is already designed to support every Priory in Canada and then worldwide. It is also accessible through a smart phone or tablet. The technology already supports multiple languages which could enable the efficient entry into the network by all of the Grand Priories and Priories around the world. It can today support the participation the Order’s 6,000 knights and dames.

The OSMTH St. James network does not currently permit self-enrollment; however, the administrative enrollment of members is quick and efficient.

Visibility

The network has already considered, in its design, a future of smaller communities of Priories within Grand Priories. This permits a simultaneous stream of Priory, Grand Priory and International activities.

Localization and Committees

Administrators can be assigned at Priory and Grand Priory levels to support their communities. The individual committees within a Priory can form “groups” and plan, communicate and implement their own action plans within the network.

Quick Discussions, Scheduled Meetings and Events

The functions of the network can support or provide alternatives in the planning and participation in group activities such as quick consultations or scheduled meetings.

The Member Directory

A directory of Knights/Dames provides an opportunity to communicate with each member of the Order.

The Knight / Dame Profile

Like many social networks, the Knight or Dames profile page provides information about who the member is and the member’s responsibilities within the Order. Additionally, the Knight or Dame profile will provide information about which committees and activities of the Order that the Knight or Dame participates in.

Awards and Recognitions

Individual profiles have been uniquely customized to our Order to recognize any special awards and recognitions awarded to the Knight or Dame.

The Library

The Library of the network consists of Books, Images, Videos, Manuals and other information curated about the history and activities of the Order. These works can be created, contributed to and updated by any member in the Order.

Courses

In addition to the normal components of the network, we acquired the online university plug-in which will allow for the organization and publishing of interactive learning materials.

Member Ideas

The network also has an Idea platform where members can introduce novel solutions to problems or propose a new charitable focus or activity. The Ideas plug-in seeks contribution and iteration and promotes Member feedback and support.

This is a pilot and may be the first throughout the international order.

We will be listening carefully to feedback, emphasizing where it works very well and making adjustments where improvements are required.

The Grand Priory of Canada will be carefully observing the progress of the network and will organize the participation of other Priors in the network.

A pdf file has been created to explain the system along with some screen shots which you can [download here](#).

News from the Priory of Simon Peter, Ottawa

The past two months have been the busiest of the year at Simon Peter, as we conducted our annual investiture and Convent at the same time as a number of charitable activities were under way. The Aphasia Centre of Ottawa held their annual Walk and Talk for Aphasia with our assistance, and our new program, "Hockey Knights in Canada", reached its first goals.

Hockey Knights. We have started to collect used hockey equipment for youths that has been outgrown and is still in good enough condition that some deserving kid could use it. We have arrangements with sports authorities in the Northwest Territories to ensure that anything we send will get sent on to isolated communities where there are many young people who can't play organized hockey because their parents cannot afford to buy them the necessary equipment. We call this endeavour "Hockey Knights in Canada", with apologies for the pun.



Having collected enough equipment to fill six 4 cubic foot moving boxes, we have been making arrangements to transport them to Yellowknife. When our prior-elect, Bill Megill, travelled to Edmonton to attend the Edmonton Commandery's investiture, he took two boxes with him on air Canada, which is allowed because he has Altitude status on that airline. In Edmonton, First Air agreed to transport the boxes to Yellowknife free, as part of their commitment to supporting northern communities. Spider Jones from the Sport North Federation, our principal contact in Yellowknife, arranged for pickup from First Air. The Priory of Simon Peter thanks Sport North, and First Air very much indeed for their support, and thanks the Edmonton Commandery deeply and most sincerely for their gracious welcome and hospitality at what was by any standard a very fine investiture.

The week of 17-21 June saw the delivery of the remaining four boxes by volunteers from the Northwest Territories Directorate of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, who travel regularly to Yellowknife and who also have the Altitude status. They are called "Hockey Squires" or "Squires" for short, and take one or two boxes directly to Yellowknife whenever sufficient equipment has been collected in Ottawa, delivering it directly to Sports North on arrival.

We have recently contacted an organization called Project North that collects money to buy new hockey equipment for the same purpose in Nunavut, with a view to mutual cooperation. They do not handle used equipment at all, which means that we will not overlap with them, and this in turn means that meaningful cooperation will be possible.



Celebrating the Vicar General's Birthday in Ottawa

It would appear that many people visit the Project North website (www.projectnorth.ca) and advise the project team that they have used equipment that they would like to donate. Until now, Project North has been referring them locally, but considers that it would be more meaningful to refer them to us. It seems that most of the offers come from the GTA, and indeed there is one now waiting. Project North would be happy to refer these offers to us if there were some way that we could collect the equipment, and would also be prepared to consider adding a link to their website directing people with used equipment to us. We are now contacting the Priory of Saint James seeking their help in setting up a collection point to hold the donations until a van can be sent down from Ottawa to pick them up.

Aphasia Centre of Ottawa. The main fundraising event for the Aphasia Centre of Ottawa for many years has been their "Walk and Talk for Aphasia". On June 2nd 2013 the Centre held its 17th Annual Walk & Talk, including a walk along the shore at Britannia park, a magic show, a book and plant bazaar, door prizes and a Heart Healthy Brunch that was served to some one hundred members and guests.

Aphasia is an acquired communication disorder that affects a person's ability to process information involving the use of words, most often occurring as one of the results of a stroke. Almost 4000 adults in Ottawa are now living with this disability.

The Aphasia Centre of Ottawa provides services for individuals and families trying to cope; their aim is to facilitate the inclusion of people with Aphasia in family and community life by bridging the communication gap. Professional staff and trained volunteers provide communication therapy, counseling, ongoing support, and advocacy. The Priory's aim in assisting the Centre is to remove as

much of the burden of fundraising from the Centre staff as possible, thereby enabling them to concentrate on their principal functions; for the past three years we have supported the Walk and Talk, and we are looking at other ways in which we can help.

We provided the food for the Walk and Talk, and ten of our Knights and Dames to prepare and serve it, having received donations from Hartman's Independent Grocery and the Richmond Avenue Superstore. Food preparation was done in two phases: cutting and mixing of ingredients in Chevse Nicole Lassaline's kitchen under her supervision on the day before, and then on the morning of the event a row of four to five Knights and Dames filling mini-pita pocket with egg salad, tuna salad and a mixture of hummus, cucumbers and alfalfa sprouts that was surprisingly edible and very popular. A good time was had by all!!

This year's Walk and Talk was very successful. Admissions, which included the magic show and the brunch, brought in some \$800, which combined with personal pledges and the bazaar brought the total raised to just short of \$6,000. This represents 15% of the amount the Centre has set as its fundraising aim for 2013, and is most encouraging.

The Convent, Investiture and Banquet. The convent and investiture for 2013 took place at Trinity Anglican Church in Ottawa on June 8 in the afternoon. The various activities were most excellently coordinated by Chevse Nicole Lassaline, to whom the Priory is most grateful.



We began with an informal evening reception by the Priory Council on June 7 for our visitors from the Grand Priory HQ and the Priory of the Ascension of Our Lord, a barbeque at Chev Bill Megill's house. Bill and Chev Jim Gervais inducted the Vicar-General and the Grand Prior into the "Ordre Presque Militaire des Beaux-Sabreurs" as "Sabreurs agrégés" by having them open champagne bottles with a cavalry sword. Pictures are attached, certificates will be presented at an appropriate time, and we all enjoyed ourselves thoroughly.

The convent took place on June 8 in the afternoon. Three postulants, Paul Gauthier, Chris Killacky and Louise Mercier were given instruction and spent some personal time meditating on the Order and

its customs and traditions. They were then given the Accolade by the Grand Prior and a blessing by the Vicar-General. Responsibility for the Priory of Simon Peter was then handed over from Chev Joe Peters to Chev Bill Megill in a ceremony reminiscent of Change of Command parades in the Canadian forces, whereby the Priory Flag was handed by the outgoing Prior to the Grand Prior as a symbol of relinquishing command, and was then passed by the Grand Prior to the incoming Prior to symbolize his acceptance of responsibility for the Priory. The Vicar-General then gave his blessing to the new Prior.



Chev Bill Megill then confirmed the Priory Council members, Chev Jim Gervais as Chancellor, Chevse Nicole Lassaline as Inspector and Secretary, and Chev John Ommanney as Treasurer. Chev Joe Peters and Chev Ted Griffiths graciously agreed to provide support as Past Priors.

Following the activities in the church, a banquet was held at the Wardroom of HMCS Bytown, when with a maximum of good food and wine, and a minimum of speechmaking, certificates were presented to the new Knights and Dames. This time, for the first time, the Loyal Toast was responded to by the newest Knight or Dame, in this case Chevse Louise Mercier.

We are all very pleased at the success of this series of activities, but the fact that the Convent was scheduled this year in June, one week after one of the major charity events, caused unnecessary stress and strain. The Priory Council is therefore looking at holding the Convent at the end of April in order to allow all the participants to catch their breaths in May. We will decide our date this Fall and stick to it in the hope that more visitors will be able to attend; Ottawa is not that far away!

A New Knight Speaks - Sir Chris Killacky

Almost two years ago I had the honour of entering into a discussion with the Rev. Ron Matthewman, Vicar General of OSMTH, that was both illuminating and fruitful on many levels. The conclusion of these initial conversations about OSMTH brought me into contact with Cdr. (ret'd) Peter Kelly, Grand Prior of Canada, who I was able to meet whilst he was visiting Halifax in Nova Scotia. This led me to consider thoughtfully the offer of admission into the Order which took place recently in Ottawa in the presence of both the Vicar General and the Grand Prior of Canada.

I was drawn to the Order by carefully looking at the outstanding charitable work that OSMTH is involved with internationally. There was also the strong sense of belonging to a body of Christian men and women who had made a personal commitment to the values of the Order and to the service of each other as Poor Servants of Christ, very much in the spirit of the Templar legacy.

My visit to Ottawa for the Investiture and time of reflection as a Postulant was accompanied by the gracious hospitality of Colonel Bill Megill who, in addition to providing illuminating conversation, taught

us the hugely important skill of opening a bottle of wine using a cavalry sabre! The Investiture was full of purpose and carried a sense of gravity and commitment and was also with good timing able to coincide with Col. Megill taking over as Prior of the Ottawa Priory. I am very grateful for the new friendships that were forged in those few days as well as the opportunity to serve within the Order, and in particular for the time and commitment already shown to me by the Grand Prior of Canada and the Vicar General. Non Nobis, Domine, Non Nobis, Sed Nomini Tuo Da Gloriam.

News from the Commandry of Edmonton

The third Annual Investiture Ceremony took place on May 25th, 2013 at the All Saints Anglican Cathedral in Edmonton. The ceremony was conferred by H.E. Commander Peter Kelly and the Venerable Dr. Ronald Matthewman. Also in attendance (for a third time) was KGT Sir Bill Megill of the Prior of Simon Peter, Ottawa. Four postulants were invested: 2 knights and 2 dames. In addition, 2 paiges were recognized and presented with sashes.



New Postulants and Paiges

As well, 2 knights were promoted to the rank of Knight Commander. The highly charged day was topped off with a splendid meal at the Edmonton Golf and Country Club, where speeches and presentations took place.



Promotions: Martyn Phillips and Bert Malo

Since the last newsletter, the shoe drop-off program was activated at a number of locations in the city and Commandery members also assisted with serving meals at the Hope Mission for impoverished and homeless persons.



The Commandery

Various social events for the members have taken place. The recruiting leaflet has been finalized and the website is being revamped. A full program for the ensuing year is planned. For further information contact: Edmontonpriory@gmail.com

Note to Priors from your Newsletter Editor

It is important that you stick to deadlines for your reports for this newsletter. The next newsletter is due to be published on 24th September 2013 and this is to allow us to report on the St James Priory annual investiture providing they get their report into me in time. Submissions for the September issue should reach me no later than Sunday prior to that date but earlier if possible.

I would add that these reports are important as it shows the work done at your Priory and where you have a successful event other Priors can use the information to do a similar event or activity at their own Priory. And as this newsletter is also available to the world wide Templar movement other countries can learn from us and so it helps our International order.

International News

We note that there are available some newsletters from the USA and England & Wales on the OSMTH web site under the Members area. Go to www.osmth.org and sign in. Once signed in select "Carpe Diem" from the menu. I note that our own most recent newsletter has been added as well.

Should you not have a member account then you need to go through our Grand Prior to get one.

Tomar hosts first ever Knights Templar Festival

After recently being chosen as the World Headquarters of the The International Order of the Knights Templar (OSMTH) – the oldest Knights Templar organisation in the world – Tomar will be hosting its first ever Knights Templar Festival later this month, put together by a consortium of local public and private sector organisations from the region, including a number of ex-pats.

The Festa Templária will take place in the city of Tomar later this month, from 23-26 May. It is the first festival of its kind to be organised in the Knights Templar city of Tomar and aims to re-create the history of the region.



The town will be decorated in medieval style and there will be a medieval market and a local town market, guided tours and workshops. Restaurants will be offering food from this period and many local traders and citizens will be dressing in medieval costume.

According to organisers the Festa Templária represents “another move towards branding Tomar as the most important Knights Templar city in Europe.”

The main event of the Festival will be a torch light parade on Saturday 25 May, starting at the ancient Knights Templar church of Santa Maria do Olival.

From there the parade will pass through the Historic Centre of Tomar and finish in the UNESCO World Heritage Convent of Christ.

The Convent of the Order of Christ is a religious Roman Catholic building in Tomar, originally a Templar stronghold built in the 12th century.

“The parade celebrates the day when Knights Templar Grand Master, Gualdim Pais, chose Tomar to build his castle. The castle that became the home and headquarters of the Knights Templar Order in Portugal, the organisation explained.

An impersonator of Portuguese crusader Gualdim Pais will be at the head of the parade on a bedecked horse, followed by mounted knights. Behind them will be over 100 knights on foot carrying torches.

The event is being supported by a consortium of local public and private sector organisations in the Tomar region, spearheaded by the local Regional Development Agency ADIRN (Associação Para O Desenvolvimento Integrado Do Ribatejo Norte).

Members from the ex-pat community around Tomar have also volunteered to help with the running of the event, helping make medieval torches for the grand parade and acting as stewards during the event.

Video of Tomar Castle



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87aO1xzF0wY>

Canadian Environment Week

E-Week 2013 took place from June 2-8, 2013. The United Nations has designated the year 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation. Canadian Environment Week will promote the theme: Water - Working Together.

Protecting Canada's natural environment reaps a world of benefits for Canadians, from strengthening the economy to enhancing health and quality of life. Canadian Environment Week is the perfect time to celebrate our achievements and initiatives. The United Nations declared 2013 to be the International Year of Water Cooperation. This year is a valuable opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of working collaboratively to protect, manage and preserve our water resources for future generations.

Learn more about this event and Environment Canada at:

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=BD3CE17D-1>

Following the above article it is excellent timing that we got in this following article...

History and Review of Water Charitable Activities

by the Priory of St. James SMOTJ

Prior to 2007 a great deal of thought was invested by the members of our Priory as in to what kind of charitable work our Priory should specialize in.

Then, some of us attended the 2007 Convent of the Order in Williamsburg, Virginia. At one of their sessions for priors, HE Major General Chev. Robert Disney, GCTJ, GMT, Grand Prior of the U.S.A. proposed a wonderful concept to the Priors and Chancellors present.

The General suggested that besides supporting the Churches in Jerusalem, the other international and local projects each priory has, the Order as a whole worldwide should support one major, long term initiative. This would be in line with most other recognized orders, which, besides many local initiatives, all have one overriding cause they support over the years. For example, the Order of St. John has the St. John Ambulance and an eye hospital in Jerusalem; the Order of St. Lazarus supports hospices for "end of life issues"; the Knights of Columbus support hospitals, and so on.

And Gen. Disney's proposal is a simple one.

Dysentery and amoebal disease are the second largest killers of children in the Third World. Yet, it is a simple and inexpensive disease to cure. The cause is always the same. Dirty, contaminated water.

The General proposed that our Order should take on this cause as a major long term objective.

Dirty water is a worldwide tragedy.

Half of all hospital beds in the world are occupied by someone suffering from a water-related illness. In the developing nations, 80% of all diseases stem from consumption of and exposure to unsafe water.

Contaminated water is deadlier than any other evil on earth; deadlier than AIDS; deadlier than cancer; deadlier than contagious diseases; deadlier even than World Wars. During the Second World War, one soldier died every 5 seconds. Today, one human being dies every 3.5 seconds from drinking contaminated water. The basic, underlying reason for this appalling situation are poverty, over population and lack of education which has led to centuries of environmental degradation of the lands, the water sheds, rivers and lakes, abetted by the wholesale destruction of the world's forests during the past 3000 years, especially in the entire Middle East and large parts of northern Africa.

The UN predicts that by 2050 35% of the human race will experience serious water shortages and problems.

Upon our return from Virginia it was discussed at length among some of our members and the chairs of our various committees. The reaction to this proposal was overwhelmingly positive.

Since then a great deal of work was done. Chev Alastair McIntyre used his special skills and made us aware of several organizations now active in the field. One was "Living Water International Canada" (LWC), which is a Canadian offshoot of a large U.S. Christian organization which was formed in 1991. This organization has drilled thousands of wells in 21 countries, serving more than 6 million people daily. The Canadian operation was run by Barry Hart, a retired high school teacher and his wife Heather, who have personally drilled 25 wells in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. At our request he made a presentation to members of our Priory which was outstanding and convinced all of us of the worthiness of this cause, his ability and his organization. As a result, his organization was selected to be supported by our Priory.

At that time, it was decided that our Priory would have the following three major areas of concentration in our charitable work:

1. Canada: In Canada we would concentrate our work strictly in concert with the Cathedral of St. James, helping them in their community outreach activities to the homeless and disadvantaged in Toronto. It is our spiritual home; they are wonderful people; have gone out of their way to support the Order and they do a great deal of good charitable work with the downtown homeless of Toronto.
2. Churches in Jerusalem: The Order as a whole is supporting these churches in the Holy Land – many of which are in crisis. This is where our Order's historical roots are and it was therefore decided to support these churches financially, albeit on a modest basis and continue an ancient tradition.
3. Water: This should become our major area of concentration internationally.

To provide clean water is totally without political implications and could not possibly be objected to by any one. From that wonderful point of entry, more difficult matters such as education or schooling would be much easier to implement. And there is no human need as basic as the need for water (and food)

It is also most important that our first efforts should be successful and we should therefore start where our chances of success are the greatest. Charity dollars are always in short supply and there is therefore a lot to be said for selecting projects where the odds of success are the greatest, and where the impact of success benefits the largest number of people.

Central and South America would provide the greatest chances for early success. The reasons are:

1. These are Christian countries. The cultural differences, though substantial, are much less than in any other region, while the social and political conditions are far superior to those prevailing in say Africa, while the needs for clean water in the two regions are the same.
2. They are in our time zones, and one can visit them relatively easily and quickly. They are also our nearest neighbours in great need.

3. And perhaps most importantly, Living Water was here in Toronto and Haliburton; had a record of success and are wonderful people. There was also the opportunity for Knights and Dames to actually join them on their drilling expeditions and participate!

During the next few years our Priory supported LWC in the range of \$2,500-\$5,000 annually. This would pay the direct cost of one or two wells serving up to two villages of 250 people each. This works out to \$10-\$20 per person to give one water for life.

But there were some problems. The main one was that Living Water International Canada relied on a U.S. parent operation "Living Waters", based in Texas. It is a very large one and has great local organizations in the various countries in which they operate. It is possible they have perhaps drilled more wells than any other organization in the world, and they do very fine work and execute well.

Their whole philosophy is to drill wells and move on. It is really an industrial approach.

As a result, follow-up and maintenance of wells was perhaps not as good as it could or should have been while any goodwill generated in the community quickly dissipated.

In September of 2008, I decided to join a well drilling team of Living Water Canada to Guatemala to experience and inspect the process. My conclusions were the local operation doing the selection of villages and the drilling of wells was excellent and much goodwill was generated. But after the well is drilled there is little follow-up.

Then two most unfortunate experiences occurred. Our expedition was all Canadian and Canadian financed though the final authority and responsibility of selecting drilling targets and the actual drilling was that of a highly qualified female mentor of Living Waters from Texas. The first incident was that we were not allowed to put a Canadian flag anywhere and that we were discouraged of even wearing a small Canadian flag. This came as quite a shock to the Canadian team and took a lot of quick sucking up and Christian forbearance!

Later another serious problem surfaced. Canadian charitable law is very strict in charitable funds going overseas since in a number of instances the funds raised were really for terrorist groups. When LWC asked for the required information from the U.S. parent operation, they refused and stated they were not putting up with bureaucratic nonsense from Canada! And that would put our charitable status into jeopardy.

LWC had also other issues which Barry Hart, the Executive Director of LWC, did not share with us. But as a result, the relationship was terminated between LWC and its U.S. parent.

Two major conclusions were drawn from this experience.

Firstly, we should only support a Canadian operation which had its own local country infrastructure. We should not have to work through another agency, especially if they are non-Canadian.

Secondly, I felt strongly that just drilling a well and then moving on might be more efficient in the short term, but a more integrated, holistic approach, building on the goodwill generated in the community over the long term, was more effective, comprehensive and longer lasting.

And what do we mean by an "integrated approach?" It means making long term relationships of trust and Christian charity; to take a deep interest in simple matters like ordinary measures to improve public health; to build a small orphanage for especially little orphan girls; to assist or build schools; to introduce seeds for new crops; and to become aware and helpful to fix local problems peculiar to that village.

So, for the period of 6-8 months we searched for a possible new Canadian water well drilling organization. We looked for ones with programs in Latin America which they operate themselves, as opposed to others which use non-Canadian groups to do the groundwork in these countries.

Finally, as a result of an introduction of Barry Hart of Living Waters, a fine Christian Canadian

group was identified in St. Catharines, Ontario. It was originally started in 2004 by Ted van der Zalm, who after 10 years of Christian development work in Tanzania, East Africa, including drilling of water wells, came back to Canada with his new wife and baby. He became a teacher of religious studies for the Catholic School Board, but still felt the call of helping the real poor in overseas countries. (See his attached resume which makes one feel rather humble).

His father had started Niagara Warehouse of Hope ("NWoH"), which collected funds and useable articles for these countries. Ted's parents dedicated their retirement years to the operations of the Warehouse. It is noted that Dame Barbara Boles-Davis has been able to get wheelchairs and other equipment at no cost for some of her patients in Peru.

One of the major initiatives of Niagara Warehouse of Hope is their offspring, the "Wells of Hope" ("WoH"). This organization has four major activities:

1. Drilling for Fresh Water
2. New Schools for Education
3. Medical Help and Supplies
4. Agricultural Technology

As was mentioned earlier, there are many different ways in which well drilling programs can be run. One is the Living Water's way. Here the organization strictly limits its operations to the drilling of wells and avoids anything else. Wells of Hope drills water wells, but then also helps the villagers with the building of schools (10 to date); providing medical services and education; and so on. In their view, aid without education was not the way to go.

Intuitively I feel and logically I think that this is a better way. Create points of superior village development which in time will encourage other neighbouring settlements to copy. In effect, it is a variant of adopting a village, which if you google the Internet, is a huge thing today. WoH's entry point would be the drilling of a well and what a splendid way that is!

The parent organization, NWoH has charitable status and is in good standing with the CRA. It has a growing budget of about \$400,000 annually today.

WoH operates in the mountains and sierras of Guatemala only. The object among others is to break the peasant's enslavement to the rainy season lasting about 2-3 months. The soils and climate are good, but because of the lack of rainfall in 9 months of the year, only one crop can be raised, instead of three if water was available.

About six wells are drilled each year. But these are serious wells. They are drilled through solid rock, with 8" casings, about 850-1200 feet in depth and will produce 400-600 gallons of water a minute.

These wells also require electricity. As a result, they are usually drilled in larger communities of up to 3,000 people. Their usual source of water is an unprotected ditch open to cattle and animals. Women wash their clothes in it and the rest is used for drinking purposes.

The wells are always drilled on public property.

These wells can only be drilled by large, industrial size drilling rigs mounted on big trucks. Until recently, WoH had used second hand rigs, which kept breaking down. It was then decided in 2010 that with God's help, they would buy a proper deep well drilling rig and a service rig at a cost of \$1,300,000 of which they have already raised \$800,000. When Ted was asked about the remaining \$500,000, he seemed totally unconcerned and said "that is only 50 parties with \$10,000".

One could only be impressed with his Christian confidence.

Having been in the interior and the mountains of Guatemala on other occasions and knowing the

lack of roads, the condition they are in, and considering the size of the trucks, I asked Ted about how one gets those trucks up these mountains? His reply was classic: "Don't worry! The villagers, including the women and children, will work 12 hours a day for weeks for no wages to fix these roads so that trucks can navigate them!" (Note: Read "Three Cups of Tea" for the same reaction of people elsewhere).

Once the well has been drilled and is operational, if there is no elementary school, which is usually the case, WoH will assist in the financing and building of a school for an average enrolment of about 350 children. The school's roof will collect water, there will be toilets and septic tanks and sewage disposal systems. Books will be bought locally. WoH will also provide donated Canadian computers and other materials collected through their parent, NWoH. And, when completed, a Canadian flag is painted on the main wall of the school by the children! Orphanages for young girls are also serious matters for early support.

WoH maintains a base camp in Jalapa, halfway between Guatemala City and the El Salvador border. There is a qualified Guatemalan drill operator who is also a mechanic. In addition, he plays a major role in selecting villages.

One of the great advantages is that WoH does not rely on foreign NGO's to provide them the infrastructure in the country, but have their own and thus control the entire process.

Ted van der Zalm, director of WoH and his wife Miriam, made a very moving presentation to us at the RCMI on February 10, 2008. It was a stellar performance. We were all quietly overwhelmed. His wife is equally impressive. (Do read their attached stories). From time to time, Ted, Miriam and their four children, together with a group of high school students who get a credit for this trip, go to Guatemala to drill wells and build school houses. Ted is a tall, quiet, unassuming person and reminds me of Greg Mortison who wrote Three Cups of Tea. (Note: Am aware of his past difficulties, but that does not change the great work Greg did in building schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan).

Our first due diligence was to visit their Warehouse which Chev. Tim Gray and I did on March 2, 2008. The Warehouse is located near Lake Ontario, south east of St. Catharines, near Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Warehouse is not that large, perhaps 10,000 square feet and is loaded with wheelchairs, crutches and other paraphernalia of use to poor countries. That structure was put up in one day by volunteer labour and donated materials. Electrical and so on, of course, took longer to install.

There is a fairly good sized mezzanine floor which was the most interesting part. There were about 10 retired people working on old computers, restoring them, wiping out data stored and preparing them for use in Guatemalan schools.

There were also a few ladies working on eye glasses. NWoH apparently collects about 18,000 pairs of glasses a year. There was in effect a small assembly line going. One lady had a special machine which measured the strength of the lenses. She would enter the data on a tag. At the next station they were put in order, identification tags were completed and the glasses and tags were put in a small tray holding maybe a dozen glasses. These trays were then put in some order and placed in special boxes of about 2' x 3' x 3'.

All the work is done by volunteers. The administrative costs are the lowest one has ever heard of. And that seems to be mainly for office rent, office expenses and insurance.

The mood seemed excellent with a lot of banter and joking.

Afterwards, we met the President, Scott Maxwell, who is a teacher of law with the Catholic School Board. He is young, smart, very presentable, a good speaker and seems to be a great person.

He explained they had a problem. Wells of Hope started out as a small initiative of Niagara Warehouse of Hope. But it had outgrown its incubator. The feeling is that it has now grown so large it should be cloned from the WoH and become an organization in its own right with its own charitable status. Getting the charitable status has not been easy, though they think they are close to receiving

it. This was accomplished somewhat later.

To sum up, this is an ideal charity for us to support.

1. It is totally Canadian and does not rely on other organizations for fieldwork.
2. It is relatively near Toronto.
3. It is still small enough that a Templar financial contribution would be meaningful.
4. Our Priory could help them in many other ways, such as collecting old computers, glasses and many other items.
5. We may also be able to help them get Government foreign aid funding and with free legal advice re charitable and certain other matters.
6. For those of our members who would personally like to go on a well drilling or school building expedition, WoH provides that opportunity at a reasonable minimum cost.

As a result of our recommendations, the Priory of St. James adopted Wells of Hope as our charity of choice in regard to selection of villages, education and medical aid. Members are also strongly urged to visit the Warehouse in person (make reservations first) and to also visit their website at <http://www.wellssofhope.com>.

Their other coordinates are shown separately. We do hope that especially our newer members will all share our enthusiasm for this wonderful program. One cannot think of a single other charitable program where at a cost of say \$15.00 per person one can provide permanently such a basic human need as clean water. Personally, I plan to go on another well drilling trip sometime this winter, that is, if a senior like me can still get insurance!

Coordinates:

Wells of Hope
1499 Irvine Road
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0
Executive Director - Ted van der Zalm
Phone: 905-937-8652
Ted van der Zalm Cell: 289-687-9355
Email: teamvdz@hotmail.com
Website: www.wellssofhope.com
Administrator: Anneliese Huizineer
Email: anneliese@wellssofhope.com
Director & President: Scott Maxwell
Home: 905 988 6085
Email: smaxwell4@cogeco.ca

Niagara Warehouse of Hope
46 Broadway Avenue
St. Catharines, ON L2M 1M4
Phone: 905-646-7237
Fax: 905-646-7100
Website: www.warehouseofhope.com

This report was prepared at the special request of our Grand Prior, H.E. Peter L. Kelly, GCTJ. It is a summation and update of earlier reports made to our Priory.

Respectfully submitted,
H.L.Col (past) Matthew Gaasenbeek III, GOTJ
Past Prior, Priory of St. James, OSMTH
July 2013

“Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed Nomini Tuo da gloriam”

The Story of Ted and Miriam

Miriam and I met in the poverty stricken country of Tanzania, East Africa. As a young man, I went to Africa with a Catholic mission organization. I wanted to do something to help relieve the suffering of

the poor, especially the children. I was asked to begin a water project by drilling water wells and to build windmills in the rural villages of Tanzania where the women were walking five to ten kilometres a day in search of water. I pointed out my lack of experience and knowledge in this area. The missionary priest simply replied, "Ted, trust in God. He will show you the way!" By trial and error and persistence I was soon drilling water wells and building windmills in Africa! In a short time God was allowing me to provide life-giving water to the people of Tanzania. Trusting in God gave God the opportunity to demonstrate to me all of the wonderful gifts and talents that He had in store for me. In the mission field a small airplane was necessary in order to reach the out stations when the roads were washed away during heavy rains. The Fathers suggested that I go back to Canada and get my pilots license. Armed with the confidence that with God anything is possible, I went back to Canada to learn how to fly. After six weeks of intense training I received my pilot's license and subsequently flew a single engine Cessna from St. Catharines, Ontario to Tanzania, East Africa.

After serving three years in Africa, I was still a single young man and very lonely at times. I prayed to God to help me to find that special someone with whom I could share this life of service. Many months later, I met Miriam who was a missionary from Italy. We were married in Canada and returned to Africa to spend another seven years, now witnessing as man and wife.

When our first child Sarah was born in Tanzania, Miriam and I had to consider the new blessings and responsibilities with which we were entrusted. After Sarah's first birthday we felt that it was time to return to Canada to provide for our young family as we had worked all those years in Tanzania without receiving any income. As our family grew, I tried a number of professions, from a greenhouse operator to owning an ice cream store, but nothing came close to the happiness and satisfaction that I had experienced by serving the poor in Africa. One day we noticed an advertisement in our local newspaper. The Niagara District School Board was looking for a chaplain for one of their local high schools. I applied and was hired.

After a number of years as a high school Chaplain, gradually God placed in my heart the idea of becoming a teacher. At first I rejected this idea, not being too keen on going back to school, but eventually I gave in to God's call. I went back to school to take evening and weekend courses in order to obtain a teacher's certification as well as continuing to work during the day so that Miriam could stay home and care for our children.

The financial challenges encountered when trying to help the poor can at times seem insurmountable. After many months of preparation and intense fund raising, we were still lacking sufficient funds to purchase a simple drilling rig. Miriam and I considered the beautiful house that God had blessed us with and came to the conclusion that our home was the tool that God provided us in order to finance the drilling rig. In 2000, mortgaging our home, Miriam and I, with our five children and a number of volunteers, drove our first water well drilling equipment and two school buses from Niagara to Guatemala. It was a fourteen-day journey before we arrived in the Jalapa region. We dwelt in tents for eight months as we drilled deep-water wells in order to bring clean, reliable sources of water to the impoverished villages. We were also able to build three elementary schools during this first trip.

All the challenges, frustrations and sacrifices of putting this trip together seemed small in comparison to the suffering of the poor. Miriam and I knew that our job was not completed. With many supportive friends, we established a not-for-profit organization called the "Wells of Hope" and continued to serve our needy sisters and brothers in Guatemala.

Even though we enjoyed some successes, one major frustration was that the drilling equipment that we initially drove to Guatemala, many times could not penetrate the hard volcanic rock. It was heart breaking to have to leave a village with no well, and thus, no life-giving water, because of the inability of the small rig. When we came back to Canada, we were determined to buy a more powerful rig that would allow us to reach the abundant aquifers that existed below the hard volcanic layer of stone. Finances were once again a challenge.

This reminded me of a story that we read in the Gospel parables, where the Master had said "well done good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in little, now I will entrust you with more" (Matt. 25:21). We knew that God was asking a greater commitment from us. This time we sold our home, and with these available monies, bought a used drilling rig in 2007. To date, over 30,000 of

our Guatemalan sisters and brothers now have access to safe, clean drinking water. Seven more elementary schools have been built as a result of the Wells of Hope initiative.

Once again, Miriam and I found ourselves at a seemingly impossible roadblock. The rig we had purchased with the sale of our home has now expired. The sale of our house only produced a minimal amount of money that allowed for the purchase of a very old and used rig. With it, we have been blessed to have been able to relieve the needless suffering of a number of our sisters and brothers in Guatemala, brought on by the lack of available clean, reliable water sources. Finally, through the grace of God and the generous help of many donors, in 2010 WoH bought a brand new drilling rig and support truck for \$1,300,000.

Estonian Army Ruled by Knights Templar-style Order

Source: GloSec

Several high-ranking military officers in the Baltic nation of Estonia have been exposed as members of a Knights Templar-style order. The Eesti Ekspress reported this week that the 27 members of the Estonian branch of the Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani include the Chief of Defense, as well as several retired military officers and former defense officials.

The order drew the attention of the Estonian security agency in 2011, when Norwegian mass killer Anders Breivik claimed to be a Knight Templar and was known to have visited Estonia.

Defense Minister Urmas Reinsalu on Friday downplayed the revelations, however, saying that "officers could join free associations without being accused of violating ethical principles."

The Estonian Templars keep low profile and describe themselves as "Christian military officers who uphold the Christian world outlook."

Chief of Defense Maj. Gen. Riho Terras told Eesti Ekspress that OSMTH members strive to cultivate moral and spiritual values among their subordinates and "are involved in various charities in the interest of education and culture."

The Estonian Templars have set up the Carolin Illenzeer Foundation in support of families of Estonian soldiers killed or gravely injured in military missions.

The Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani was established in 1804 in the spirit of the 12th century Knights Templar. There are many groups around the world that claim the association with OSMTH and the order exists in each country under different jurisdictions.

My Distress in This Tragedy

Knight's, Dames all: This is the latest message from Canon Andrew White. He was to come to Canada June 24 to July 1st to meet with the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary in Ottawa and then on to Toronto. We had arranged some meetings and contacts for him. He has not cancelled out - but it rather sounds like it will not be possible for him to come.. Pray for him; the people of St. George's and all the people of Iraq.

Blessings. nnDnn Ron Matthewman Vicar General.of OSMTH-I

News from Canon Andrew White

I have to confess I was in floods of tears when I spoke to Caroline this evening. It is impossible to describe the terror and the pain, the brokenness, distress and fears of my people as we enter into sectarian civil war. As the violence increases so many people are telling me to leave and so many of my people are telling me they want to leave. The words of the great late missionary Gladys Aylward comfort and inspire me.

"Life is pitiful, death so familiar, suffering and pain so common, yet I would not be anywhere else. Do not wish me out of this or in any way seek to get me out, for I will not be got out while this trial is on.

These are my people, God has given them to me, and I will live or die with for Him and His glory." - Gladys Aylward

With her I say. These are my people, God has given them to me, and I will live or die with for Him and His glory. With terrorism and violence all around the needs are so great. Friends are no more, run down homes are destroyed and we have to stand in all these situations and show the healing love of Jesus. We had just finished our wonderful praise and prayer meeting when Nawal came to me with a lady and her wonderful two young daughters. I was told they no longer had a father or husband, They had eaten nothing but a little rice for several days. Nawal asked if I could help them. I did not tell them I had nothing but looked in my own wallet and gave them all I had. The lady started to cry and the children grabbed hold of me and asked if I was going to be their daddy now. I told them I already was. They told me how much they loved me and departed talking about what food they were going to get to eat.

In my Facebook update this morning I said we were having to learn how to sing the Lords song in a strange land Ps.137. I have been so blessed by those who have asked how they can give to us. Well the good news is we have a 501C3 in the USA and you may give at the website <http://www.frrmeamerica.org> and in the UK www.frrme.org

Meanwhile we continue thank God for his goodness and He is good all the time.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01snjpy>

Blessings my friends.

Editors Note:

You can learn more about him at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_White_\(priest\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_White_(priest))

For background reading you may wish to view the book:

[Islam: A guide for Jews and Christians](#) By E. E. Peters (pdf)

Bernard of Clairvaux

Patron Saint of the Templar Order

Our thanks to author Edward Grant Ries for contributing this article.

Introduction. Bernard, the founding abbot of Clairvaux Abbey in Burgundy, in the heart of France, was one of the most commanding church leaders in the first half of the twelfth century. He rose in prominence to become one of the greatest spiritual masters of all time, as well as leading the reforms that made the monastic orders of Western Europe powerful propagators of the Catholic faith. He crafted the rules of behavior for the Cistercian Order, which he used as the model for the rules governing the Templar Order. He helped heal the great split in the papal authority and was asked to preach the Second Crusade. His appeal sent vast armies on the road toward Jerusalem. In a lesser known contribution, he was influential in ending savage persecution in Germany toward the Jews.

Bernard's Early Life. He was born in Fontaines-les-Dijon in southeastern France in 1090. Bernard's family was of noble lineage, both on the side of his father, Tescelin, and on that of his mother, Aleth or Aletta, but his ancestry cannot be clearly traced beyond his proximate forebears. The third of seven children, six of whom were sons, Bernard as a boy attended the school of the secular canons of Saint-Vorles, where it is probable that he studied the subjects included in the medieval trivium. In 1107, the early death of his mother, to whom he was bound by a strong affective tie, began a critical period in his life. Of the four years that followed, little is known but what can be



inferred from their issue. In 1111, Bernard left the world and withdrew to the locality of Châtillon, where he was soon joined by all his brothers and a number of other relatives.

At the age of 22, he entered the Abbey of Cîteaux in 1112, bringing thirty of his relatives with him, including five of his brothers. His youngest brother and widowed father followed later. After receiving a monastic formation from Stephen Harding (later Saint Stephen), he was sent in 1115 to begin a new monastery near Aube, in a place of great beauty called Clairvaux, the 'Valley of Light'. Bernard was guided by his conviction of the superiority of the Cistercian life to every other manner of pursuing personal holiness or evangelical perfection.

As a young abbot, he discovered a talent for persuasion in both speaking and writing. He published a series of sermons on the Annunciation, elaborating on the New Testament scripture wherein the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, to inform her that she was destined to bear the Son of God, although a virgin. These acts marked Bernard not only as a most gifted spiritual writer but also as the "cithara of Mary," especially noted for his defining of the Virgin Mary's mediatorial role in Catholic thought that continues to influence devout Catholics to the present.

Bernard's Role as a Mediator. In addition to writing about the concept of mediation as a gospel principle, Bernard soon became a valued spiritual advisor to powerful church and secular leaders, who called upon him to help resolve disputes. Bernard's spiritual writing as well as his extraordinary personal magnetism began to attract many to Clairvaux and other Cistercian monasteries, leading to many new foundations. He was drawn into the controversy brewing between the new monastic movement which he preeminently represented and the established Cluniac order, a branch of the Benedictines.

This led to one of his most controversial and most popular works, his *Apologia*. Bernard's dynamism soon reached far beyond monastic circles. More than anyone else, he helped to bring about the healing of the papal schism which arose in 1130 with the election of the rival of the officially declared pope, the so-called antipope Anacletus II.

It cost Bernard eight years of laborious travel and skillful mediation to arrive at a resolution that healed the break in western Christianity. At the same time, he labored for peace and reconciliation between the warring kingdoms of England and France and among many lesser nobles. He managed to bring a temporary end to hostilities, but the kings and nobles soon resumed fighting. His influence mounted when his spiritual son was elected pope in 1145.

At Eugene III's command, Bernard preached the Second Crusade. His preaching in France, Germany, and the Low Countries exerted a powerful influence on nobles, landed gentry, and commoners alike. Vast armies were soon on the road toward Jerusalem. In his last years, Bernard rose from his sickbed and went into the Rhineland to defend the Jews against savage persecution.

Bernard's Role as a Writer. Although Bernard suffered from constant physical debility, he maintained an exhausting regime that included an ascetic life style, governing a monastery that soon housed several hundred monks and training groups sent regularly to begin new monasteries. He personally saw to the establishment of sixty-five of the three hundred Cistercian monasteries founded during his thirty-eight years as abbot. Yet, he yet found time to compose many varied spiritual works that still speak to the faithful today. He laid out a solid foundation for the monastic and personal spiritual life in his works on grace, free will, humility, and love. His gifts as a theologian were called upon to respond to the teachings of early Christian reformers Peter Abelard, Gilbert de la Porree, and Arnold of Brescia. His masterpiece, *Sermons on the Song of Songs*, was begun in 1136 and was still in composition at the time of his death. With great simplicity and poetic grace, Bernard writes of the experiences of the mystical life in ways that became normative for all succeeding Catholic writers. For Pope Eugene, he wrote *Five Books on Consideration*, which was the bedside reading of the 20th century Pope John XXIII and many other pontiffs, priests, and laymen across the centuries.

Bernard's Role with the Templar Order. When the Order of Knights Templar was founded in 1118-1119 in Jerusalem, it was a 'poor order' whose primary function was the protection of pilgrims along the main roads between the coast at Jaffa and the inland city of Jerusalem. But an important transformation took place when this nascent Order came under the patronage of Bernard of Clairvaux, a nephew of Andre de Montbard, one of the founding Templars. Until he took the cloth at the age of twenty, Bernard himself was destined for a knightly career, and when he came to patronize the Knights Templar that Order was already imbued with the ideals and convictions of the

knightly class of Burgundy.

It was Hugh of Champagne who donated the site of Clairvaux to Bernard, where he built his abbey and from whence he expanded the monastic order. He became the official sponsor of the Templars, and it was his influence that ensured papal recognition at the Council at Troyes, that being the capital of Champagne. Eventually, it was a disciple of Bernard's, Pope Innocent II (formerly a monk at Clairvaux) who freed the Templars from all allegiance to anyone except the Pope himself.

In 1128, Bernard of Clairvaux was just twenty-eight years old when the Council of Troyes asked him to help create a Rule for the Templar order. Troyes was the homeland of Hugh de Payns, who had returned from the Holy Land to make the request of the Council. Young Bernard fulfilled that request, but he also became the Order's most vocal champion, urging that they be supported with gifts of land and money and exhorting men of good family to cast off their sinful lives and take up the sword and the cross as Templar Knights.

Bernard urged young men to take up the Templar sword, comparing the Templar's holy way of life, so pleasing to God, to the degenerate ways of secular knights, whose lives were dedicated to vanity, adultery, looting, and stealing, with many sins to atone for. The dedication to Christ, to a life of chastity and prayer, to a life that might be sacrificed in battle against unbelievers, was enough penance to atone for any sin or any number of sins. On that basis, Bernard appealed to 'the wicked and the ungodly, rapists and murderers, adulterers', to save their own souls by enlisting as Knights of the Temple. That guaranteed absolution was also a way out for those suffering under decrees of excommunication. The taking of the Templar oath would be evidence of submission to the Church, and the supreme penance of a lifetime at war for the True Cross would satisfy God's requirement for punishment of the contrite. Another pool of recruits was provided by the poor knights who lacked the funds to acquire horses, armor, and weapons. All of those things would be given to them upon their entry, along with personal attendants and servants. They were certain of adequate food and a place in which to live. Their self-respect, no matter how low it might have sunk, would be instantly restored (A heavy war-horse cost roughly the equivalent of four hundred days' pay for a free laborer).

A quote from Bernard himself perhaps says it best: "The warriors are gentler than lambs and fiercer than lions, wedding the mildness of the monk with the valour of the knight, so that it is difficult to decide which to call them: men who adorn the Temple of Solomon with weapons instead of gems, with shields instead of crowns of gold, with saddles and bridles instead of candelabra: eager for victory -- not fame; for battle not for pomp; who abhor wasteful speech, unnecessary action, unmeasured laughter, gossip and chatter, as they despise all vain things: who, in spite of their being many, live in one house according to one rule, with one soul and one heart."

By the thirteenth century, the rules for admission to the Order had gotten a lot tighter, but they were demonstrably looser in the beginning. An aspirant was required to be a knight, the son of a knight and his lady. Villein descent was a bar to entry as a knight; it was also a bar to the priesthood, so the Templar Order was no exception. An excommunicated aspirant was to be brought first to the bishop and he could be received into the Order only if the bishop would absolve him. It seems from the early Statutes of the Order that recruiting went on among knights who had been found guilty of serious moral offenses, a well-known rule in the French version directs the Templars to frequent and recruit from gatherings of excommunicated knights. That the Latin version of the rule gives the directly opposite injunction, not to frequent such gatherings, probably shows the tension between the official clerical attitudes to the Order and the vernacular military culture which lay alongside it. Opinion was divided to the end; at the time of the trial and dissolution of the Order it was being said that it was a disgraceful thing that robbers worthy of death had been admitted to the Order.

Bernard crafted his rules for the Templars from those he had created previously for Cistercian monks, adding in rules appropriate to warriors but not to ascetic monks. The principal rule required unquestioning obedience: "Every brother who is professed in the Holy service should, through fear of the flames of Hell, give total obedience to the Master; for nothing is dearer to Jesus Christ than obedience, and if anything be commanded by the Master or by one to whom he has given his power, it should be done without demur as if it were a command from God . . . for you must give up your own free will."

An English Templar, William Watson expressed his love of the Rule in this way: "'Have I not been obedient to the Rule? The Rule is the bones of my body, it runs from my feet to my head, and it is in my arms; these fingers... The Rule is my marrow. Am I not also garbed in the Rule, for it tells me

what I wear. The Rule is within me and about me. It is my hand when I fight and tells me what my weapons are. Within and Without."

What rules did the early Templars follow before 1128? Hugh de Payns had adopted the Rule of Saint Augustine for the Order and attended the Council of Troyes, where he led discussions of that rule, as well as those suggested by Bernard. While Bernard led the effort to craft what was known as the Primitive Rule for the Templars, as assigned by the Council of Troyes in 1128, much of the work was performed by another monk, Johannes Michaelensis. The primitive rules dealing with knightly responsibilities and behavior numbered only 76 out of a total of 676 rules. Bernard used the Cistercian Rule as the basis for the new Templar Rule. He had previously created the Rule for the Cistercian Order from that of the Benedictines.

Rules for Nearly Every Event and Contingency.

Here is the list of subjects addressed by Bernard's Rules:

1. The Manner in which Brothers should be Received
2. On Excommunicated Knights
3. On Not Receiving Children
4. On Brothers who Stand Too Long in Chapel
5. On the Brothers' Dress
6. On Shirts
7. On Bed Linen
8. On Pointed Shoes' and Shoe-Laces
9. How They Should Eat
10. On the Reading of the Lesson
11. On Bowls and Drinking Vessels
12. On the Eating of Meat
13. On Weekday Meals
14. On Friday Meals
15. On Saying Grace
16. On Taking Collation
17. On Keeping Silence
18. On Ailing Brothers
19. On the Communal Life
20. On the Master
21. On Giving Counsel
22. On Brothers Sent Overseas
23. On Keeping the Peace
24. How the Brothers Should Go About
25. How they Should Effect an Exchange

26. On Locks
27. On Secular Gifts
28. On Faults
29. On Serious Faults
30. On Rumour
31. Let None Take Pride in his Faults
32. Let None Ask
33. On Animals and Squires
34. That No Brother May Have an Ornate Bridle
35. On Lance Covers
36. On Food Bags
37. On Hunting
38. On the Lion
39. How They May Have Lands and Men
40. On Tithes
41. On Giving Judgment
42. On Elderly Brothers
43. On Sick Brothers
44. On Deceased Brothers
45. On the Priests and Clerks who Serve Charity
46. On Secular Knights
47. On Secular Knights who Serve for a Fixed Term
48. On the Commitment of Sergeants
49. On White Mantles
50. On Married Brothers
51. On Sisters
52. Let Them Not Have Familiarity with Women
53. Not Being Godfathers
54. On the Commandments
55. These are the Feast Days and Fasts that all the Brothers should Celebrate and Observe
56. These are the Feast Days which should be Observed in the House of the Temple

Bernard was so pleased by the creation of the Templar Rule that he enthusiastically volunteered to use his enormous influence in a recruiting campaign for the Order. To prove that marketing hyperbole is not a modern invention, he wrote the following sometime between 1132 and 1136:

"These events at Jerusalem have shaken the world. The islands hearken, and the people from afar give ear. They swarm forth from East and West, as a flood stream bringing glory to the nations and a rushing river gladdening the city of God. What could be more profitable and pleasant to behold than seeing such a multitude coming to reinforce the few?"

Model of Humility, Love, and Charity. Personal humility is rare in anyone with such knowledge, drive, and persuasion as Bernard exhibited. In the dedication of his masterpiece *On Loving God*, he expressed his humility in the following way:

"Hitherto you have been wont to seek prayers from me, not the solving of problems; although I count myself sufficient for neither. My profession shows that, if not my conversation; and to speak truth, I lack the diligence and the ability that are most essential. Yet I am glad that you turn again for spiritual counsel, instead of busying yourself about carnal matters: I only wish you had gone to someone better equipped than I am."

Yet in his humility, Bernard taught powerful lessons on the nature of charity as the pure love of Christ that significantly affected the whole of the Christian community in Western Europe and in the Holy Land. He wrote the following priceless masterpiece:

"To love our neighbor's welfare as much as our own: that is true and sincere charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned. Whosoever loves his own prosperity only is proved thereby not to love good for its own sake, since he loves it on his own account. And so he cannot sing with the psalmist, 'O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is gracious'. Such a man would praise God, not because He is goodness, but because He has been good to him: he could take to himself the reproach of the same writer, 'So long as Thou doest well unto him, he will speak good of Thee'. One praises God because He is mighty, another because He is gracious, yet another solely because He is essential goodness. The first is a slave and fears for himself; the second is greedy, desiring further benefits; but the third is a son who honors his Father. He who fears, he who profits, are both concerned about self-interest. Only in the son is that charity which seeketh not her own. Wherefore I take this saying, 'The law of the Lord is an undefiled law, converting the soul' to be of charity; because charity alone is able to turn the soul away from love of self and of the world to pure love of God. Neither fear nor self-interest can convert the soul. They may change the appearance, perhaps even the conduct, but never the object of supreme desire. Sometimes a slave may do God's work; but because he does not toil voluntarily, he remains in bondage. So a mercenary may serve God, but because he puts a price on his service, he is enchained by his own greediness. For where there is self-interest there is isolation; and such isolation is like the dark corner of a room where dust and rust befoul. Fear is the motive which constrains the slave; greed binds the selfish man, by which he is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust and enticed. But neither fear nor self-interest is undefiled, nor can they convert the soul. Only charity can convert the soul, freeing it from unworthy motives.

Next, I call it undefiled because it never keeps back anything of its own for itself. When a man boasts of nothing as his very own, surely all that he has is God's; and what is God's cannot be unclean. The undefiled law of the Lord is that love which bids men seek not their own, but every man another's wealth. It is called the law of the Lord as much because He lives in accordance with it as because no man has it except by gift from Him. Nor is it improper to say that even God lives by law, when that law is the law of love. For what preserves the glorious and ineffable Unity of the blessed Trinity, except love?"

Bernard's Life in Retrospect. Bernard died at his beloved Clairvaux on 20 August 1153. He was canonized by Pope Alexander III on 18 January 1174. Pope Pius VII declared him a Doctor of the Church in 1830.

Editor's Note: I have a page for Edward Grant Ries on my site at:
<http://www.electricscotland.com/books/ries/>

Canadian History

I was talking to Douglas Gibson who was then President and Publisher of McClelland & Stewart and now President of Gibson's Books.. I asked him what book he would recommend to tell the story of the Pioneer's in Canada. He replied that the book he would recommend was "The McGregors", a Novel

of an Ontario Pioneer Family by Robert Laidlaw.

Now this is a novel but as Douglas described it Robert Laidlaw was brought up in Bruce County, Ontario and was brought up with tales of the pioneer days from his parents and grand parents. He wanted to tell their story and hence the book which is mostly based on facts and personal knowledge.

Now I asked Douglas if I might get permission to publish the book on my site as the book was still in copyright although the author was now deceased. Well as it happens Douglas publishes the books of another famous Canadian Author, Alice Munro, who is Robert's daughter. So to cut a long story short Alice kindly gave her permission to publish her father's story on my site.

It is an outstanding read and here is the introduction and preface...

This novel of the three generations of the McGregor family and their life in Southwestern Ontario from the 1840s to the 1920s is a classic tale of pioneer life.

"Black Jim" McGregor was only a small boy when he arrived with his father, the reprobate Rory, his mother, and his brothers and sisters, on the Huron Tract (that area of Southwestern Ontario where towns like Guelph, Stratford, Clinton, and Goderich are today). But he was to spend the next seventy years there and witness first-hand the struggle to turn some of the wildest land in the country into pleasant farms, villages, and towns. As a young man he roamed the country with a framing gang, raising barns and homes, and then, with his lively wife Janet, he created his own farm out of the Ontario bushland. Through Jim's eyes these indomitable people, who faced the wilderness with such wry humour and matter-of-factness, come to life.

As well as telling a compelling story about the people who settled the Huron Tract, The McGregors is full of accurate, fascinating details about pioneering: about how the first crops were harvested, the huge barns raised, and the homes built; about how quilts, furniture, and fences were made; and about the strong sense of community that held everyone together.

The McGregors is also about how a community is created, about how people start to take root in a place—to take from the land a sense of character as well as a livelihood. It cuts across the generalities which abound about pioneer life in this country and gives us an accurate picture of a time in our history when, farm by farm, street by street, a nation was being built.

Robert Laidlaw was himself a descendant of the pioneers that he writes about in this book. In fact, this story is based on the memories of his grandparents, as well as on his own recollections. And while The McGregors is bound to be of special interest to people living in the towns, cities, and farms of Southwestern Ontario, it is also a must for people who love old-fashioned novels that celebrate the timeless virtues of family, home, and tradition.

Preface

This book is dedicated to the courteous, friendly people who lived in the area described herein during the 1930s and the 1940s.

My purpose in writing the book was to give a partial history of this part of South Bruce and North Huron counties through an imaginary account of a man's life from the 1850s to the 1920s. The names of the characters were chosen at random and have no connection with any real persons, living or dead; the village is a combination of Lucknow and of Blyth where I grew up.

I have tried to give an account of what it must have been like for the first settlers, of how they lived and worked and what they worked with. As the book progressed I was able to rely on my own memories and impressions, but the early pages are largely based on memories of conversations with parents and grandparents. Nothing much has been written of the history of this area as yet and I think it is important to make a record before the lives of these people have been forgotten. If reading The McGregors gives pleasure to a few, that is all the recompense I ask.

Thanks are due to my wife, Mary Etta, who corrected my spelling, and to my daughter, Alice Munro, without whose encouragement this book would not have been written.

Robert Eric Laidlaw

You can read this book at:

<http://www.electricense.com/pioneering/mcgregors/index.htm>

Turkey's Continuing Siege: Remembering the Fall of Constantinople

By Dr. Elizabeth H. Prodromou and Alexandros K. Kyrou

Turkey has been in the news. It's been all over the front page and protests have made international news.

Today marks the 560th anniversary of the fall and capture of the magnificent Christian city of Constantinople, the eastern capital of the Roman Empire, to the forces led by the Ottoman Turkish Sultan, Mohammed (Mehmet) II. Mehmet took the title "the Conqueror" for himself, as a sign of the Turks' conquest of what was Europe's most glorious city of the Middle Ages and as recognition of the Ottoman jihadi victory over Christianity.

Nearly half a millennium later, the government of the Republic of Turkey continues to celebrate the fall of the city, today's Istanbul, with religious, sports, and media festivities. Kemalist governments long understood the fall of Constantinople as a signature event for Turkish nationalism. Visitors to Istanbul on May 29th could hardly mistake the nationalist message of the city draped in Turkish flags for as far as the eye could see, and under the current Islamist government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, secular nationalism has been augmented with a religious message about the fall of Constantinople as a sign of Islam's triumph over Christianity.

Last year, Erdogan floated the idea of designating May 29th as a Turkish national holiday. More recently, he suggested the possibility of a referendum on the conversion of the historic Byzantine Christian Cathedral of Hagia Sophia, captured by Mehmet when he rode on horseback through the colossal entry doors into the heart of the sanctuary, from its current status as a museum into a functioning mosque.

Ankara has consistently critiqued the European Union as a Christian Club keeping Turkey at arm's length because of religious prejudice against Islam. Yet, the fall of Constantinople on May 29th in 1453 began an unrelenting, centuries-long pattern of persecution and discrimination against the city's Christian population. This policy of religious cleansing lays bare the lie of the Ottoman Empire as a benign, multi-cultural polity, and also highlights the violations of human rights and religious freedom that are the hallmark of Turkey's treatment of its Christian minority populations. The anniversary of the fall of Constantinople is a reminder that the siege against Turkey's Christians continues to this day -- most egregiously, against the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the tiny Greek Orthodox Christian community (fewer than 2,000 in number), as well as against the small Armenian Orthodox and Syriac Orthodox Christian communities (their combined numbers total about 80,000). All of these Christians are survivors tracing their roots to Constantinople when it fell to the Ottoman Turks.

The erasure of Christians from Constantinople (located on the ancient city of Byzantium on the southernmost promontory of the European side of the Bosphorus) is one of the tragedies of history. When the Ottomans began their 54-day siege of Constantinople, the city was still renowned throughout Europe for its size, wealth, and cosmopolitan sophistication. Even after the disintegrated Western Roman Empire had been resuscitated by Charlemagne as the Holy Roman Empire, the capital city of the Eastern Roman, or Byzantine, Empire had a population numbering nearly one million, and was the repository of Medieval Europe's art, ancient literature, and the birthplace of the hospital and the university. And long after the Christian Sees of Antioch, Alexandria, and Jerusalem had fallen to Arab Muslim armies moving westward through the Levant and the Holy Lands of Christianity's origins, Constantinople stood as reminder that the epicenter of Christian theology and practice was in the eastern territories of the Roman Empire -- only the See of Rome lay in western imperial lands. When the Great Schism split Christendom into the Greek Orthodox East and Roman Catholic West, Constantinople's Christians were largely alone on the frontlines when the Ottoman Turks began their assault the city.

The Ottomans' capture of Constantinople was the final blow marking the end of the world's most long-lived polity, the Roman Empire. In the former Byzantine East, Christians found themselves living in an Islamic theocracy, rendered second-class subjects of the Ottoman Sultan: as dhimmi, they were accorded formal status as protected "Peoples of the Book," and as a religious community, the Christian millet was overseen by the Ecumenical Patriarch. But in reality, Christians in the Ottoman Empire were treated as chattel, and were subjected to all manner of persecution and exploitation: most notably, the infamous devshirme was a system of forcible conscription-conversion of Christian children as a form of human tax for the Ottoman state.

The conventional portrayal of Mustapha Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey, has been built on the political canard that the secularist principles of the Republic of Turkey were a deliberate turn away from the Islamic theocracy of the Ottoman Empire. The reality is quite different. In fact, Turkey's founding moment involved the genocide of two-and-a-half million Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek Christians in Ottoman Anatolia and Asia Minor--in short, most of the remaining Orthodox Christian population that had survived from Byzantine Christian times.

In some ways, Ankara's policies against Turkey's Christian citizens have added a modern veneer and sophisticated brutality to Ottoman norms and practices. Pogroms, persecution, and discrimination have been visited on Turkey's Christians. The Turkish press revealed only weeks ago that Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was the target of an assassination conspiracy (the second such plot against his life in four years), and the constant threats and interference in the affairs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox community have led to the near extinction of that ancient Christian community. In the words of an anonymous Church hierarch in Turkey fearful for the life of his flock, Christians in Turkey are an endangered species. The siege of Constantinople continues today, 560 years after the fall on May 29th, 1453.

Dr. Elizabeth H. Prodromou is Affiliate Scholar at the Center for European Studies at Harvard University and former Vice Chair of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom; Dr. Alexandros K. Kyrou is Prof. of History at Salem State University, where he teaches on Byzantium, the Balkans, and the Ottoman Empire.

Pray if you want to

Andy Rooney says:

I don't believe in Santa Claus, but I'm not going to sue somebody for singing a Ho-Ho-Ho song in December.

I don't agree with Darwin, but I didn't go out and hire a lawyer when my high school teacher taught his theory of evolution.

Life, liberty or your pursuit of happiness will not be endangered in any way because someone says a 30-second prayer before a football game.

So what's the big deal?

It's not like somebody is up there reading the entire Book of Acts. They're just talking to a God they believe in and asking him to grant safety to the players on the field and the fans going home from the game.

But it's a Christian prayer, some will argue.

Yes, and this is the United States of America, and Canada, countries founded on Christian principles. According to our very own phone book, Christian churches outnumber all others better than 200-to-1.

So what would you expect -- Somebody chanting Hare Krishna?

If I went to a football game in Jerusalem, I would expect to hear a Jewish prayer.

If I went to a soccer game in Baghdad, I would expect to hear a Muslim prayer.

If I went to a ping pong match in China, I would expect to hear someone pray to Buddha.

And I wouldn't be offended. It wouldn't bother me one bit.

When in Rome

But what about the atheists is another argument.

What about them?

Nobody is asking them to be baptized. We're not going to pass the collection plate. Just humor us for 30 seconds. If that's asking too much, bring a Walkman or a pair of ear plugs. Go to the bathroom. Visit the concession stand. Call your lawyer! Or, just exercise your right to leave this country!

Unfortunately, one or two will call their lawyer.

One or two will tell thousands what they can and cannot do. I don't think a short prayer at a football game is going to shake the world's foundations.

Christians are just sick and tired of turning the other cheek while our courts strip us of all our rights.

Our parents and grandparents taught us to pray before eating, to pray before we go to sleep.

Our Bible tells us to pray without ceasing.

Now a handful of people and their lawyers are telling us to cease praying.

God, help us. And if that last sentence offends you, well, just sue me.

The silent majority has been silent too long. It's time we tell that one or two who scream loud enough to be heard that the vast majority doesn't care what they want!

It is time that the majority rules!



It's time we tell them, "You don't have to pray; you don't have to say the Pledge of Allegiance; you don't have to believe in God or attend services that honor Him.

That is your right, and we will honor your right; But by golly, You are no longer going to take our rights away. We are fighting back, and we WILL WIN!"

God bless us one and all...Especially those who denounce Him, God bless America and Canada, despite all our faults, we are still the greatest nations of all.

God bless our service men who are fighting to protect our right to pray and worship God.

Let's make 2013 and 2014 the years the silent majority is heard and we put God back as the foundation of our families and institutions. And our military forces come home from all the wars.



Keep looking up.



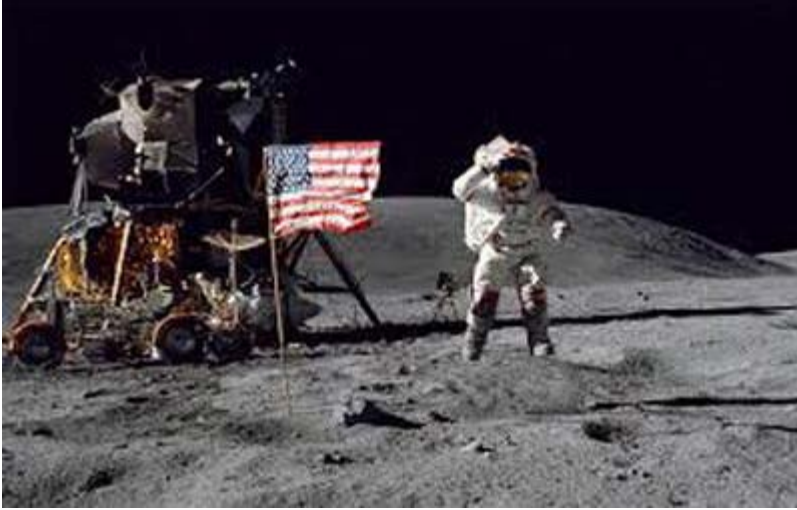
If you agree with this, please pass it on.

Communion on the Moon

By Thomas E. Sawyer

I was very close to this event, having conceived, designed, and developed the Lunar Excursion Module Descent Engine (LEMDE) that took these two to the surface of the moon, but had not heard this story before today. Enjoy.

COMMUNION ON THE MOON



I presume that most of us were unaware of this story. I didn't know this, but it's awesome! 42 years ago, guess what happened, many have not heard of this before.

Communion on the Moon: July 20, 1969
(This is an article by Eric Metaxas)

Forty-two years ago two human beings changed history by walking on the surface of the moon. But what happened before Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong exited the Lunar Module is perhaps even more amazing, if only because so few people know about it. "I'm talking about the fact that Buzz Aldrin took communion on the surface of the moon. Some months after his return, he wrote about it in Guideposts magazine.

And a few years ago I had the privilege of meeting him myself. I asked him about it and he confirmed the story to me, and I wrote about it in my book, *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About God (But Were Afraid to Ask)*.

The background to the story is that Aldrin was an elder at his Presbyterian Church in Texas during this period in his life, and knowing that he would soon be doing something unprecedented in human history, he felt he should mark the occasion somehow, and he asked his minister to help him. And so the minister consecrated a communion wafer and a small vial of communion wine. And Buzz Aldrin took them with him out of the Earth's orbit and on to the surface of the moon.

He and Armstrong had only been on the lunar surface for a few minutes when Aldrin made the following public statement:

"This is the LM pilot. I'd like to take this opportunity to ask every person listening in, wherever and wherever they may be, to pause for a moment and contemplate the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his or her own way." He then ended radio communication and there, on the silent surface of the moon, 250,000 miles from home, he read a verse from the Gospel of John, and he took communion.

Here is his own account of what happened:

"In the radio blackout, I opened the little plastic packages which contained the bread and the wine. I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up the side of the cup. Then I read the scripture, 'I am the

vine, you are the branches. Whosoever abides in me will bring forth much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing.

I had intended to read my communion passage back to earth, but at the last minute [they] had requested that I not do this. NASA was already embroiled in a legal battle with Madelyn Murray O'Hare, the celebrated opponent of religion, over the Apollo 8 crew reading from Genesis while orbiting the moon at Christmas. I agreed reluctantly. I ate the tiny Host and swallowed the wine. I gave thanks for the intelligence and spirit that had brought two young pilots to the Sea of Tranquility. It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements.

And of course, it's interesting to think that some of the first words spoken on the moon were the words of Jesus Christ, who made the Earth and the moon - and Who, in the immortal words of Dante, is Himself the "Love that moves the Sun and other stars."

How many of you knew this? Too bad this type news doesn't travel as fast as the bad does...share it if you've felt God's Love.

Canada loses two musical icons

The deaths of Stompin' Tom Connors and Rita MacNeil recently left a big gap in the Canadian music scene. I posted up on my site a tribute to both which you may enjoy viewing as I was also able to find a few YouTube videos to go with them.

Stompin' Tom can be found at:

http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/music/stompin_tom.htm

Rita can be found at:

http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/music/rita_macneil.htm

A Two Letter Word

Some of you may well know this poem by Rudyard Kipling...

If

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too:
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream---and not make dreams your master;
If you can think---and not make thoughts your aim,
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same:.
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings,
And never breathe a word about your loss:
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew

To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings---nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much:
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And---which is more---you'll be a Man, my son!

Rudyard Kipling

There's another two-letter word that has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that is 'UP.'

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP?

Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

We call UP our friends.

And we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver; we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen.

We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car.

At other times the little word has real special meaning.

People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special.

A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night.

We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary.

In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4th of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used.

It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP.

When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP.

When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things UP.

When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry [UP](#).

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it [UP](#),

for now my time is [UP](#),

so.....it is time to shut [UP](#)!

Now it's [UP](#) to you what you do with this article.

A Wee Bit of Humour

Grandma's

Standing on the shore, a Scottish lady watches her grandson playing in the water. She is thunderstruck when she sees a huge wave crash over him. When it recedes, the boy is no longer there -- he had vanished!

Screaming, the woman holds her hands to the sky and cries, "Lord, how could you? Have I not been a wonderful mother and grandmother? Have I not scrimped and saved so I could give to the church? Have I not always put others before myself? Have I not always turned my other cheek and loved my neighbors? Have I not --"

A deep loud voice from the sky interrupts. "Enough already, give me a break!"

Immediately, another huge wave appears and crashes on the beach. And when it recedes, the boy is there smiling, splashing around as if nothing ever happened.

The deep loud voice continues. "I have returned your grandson. Are you satisfied?"

The grandmother responds, "He had a hat."

Canadian Women

As I didn't get any counter from the women about last issues article I thought I'd add one for you...

Three men were sitting together bragging about how they had given their new wives duties.

Terry had married a woman from America and bragged that he had told his wife she was going to do all the dishes and house cleaning that needed done at their house. He said that it took a couple days but on the third day he came home to a clean house and the dishes were all washed and put away.

Jimmy had married a woman from Australia. He bragged that he had given his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes and the cooking. He told them that the first day he didn't see any results but the next day it was better. By the third day, his house was clean, the dishes were done and he had a huge dinner on the table.

The third man had married a Canadian girl. He boasted that he told her that her duties were to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed and hot meals on the table for every meal. He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything, but by the third day most of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye. Enough to fix himself a bite to eat, load the dishwasher, fill the washing machine and call a landscaper.

God bless Canadian women!!!

The Tartan Herald

Always nice to see Canada getting a mention and here is an article that was on page 1 of the Tartan

Sol's Tartan is Back!

Appropriately, the Ancient Atlantic tartan has made a reappearance at the
The Sign of the Whale in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia

It's always very gratifying when information appears to correct or supplement whatever scanty details we have on a tartan in our industry standard database.

Such was the case very recently with a tartan called Ancient Atlantic so we were delighted to see on our daily Google Alert the other morning, the following supplementary information.

"At the Sign of the Whale in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, owners Michael and Frances Morris have resurrected a tartan from an earlier era - the Ancient Atlantic which was the second tartan designed by the late Sol Gilis.

Sol (Sliomas) Gilis operated Thistle Knit Wear in Yarmouth from the late 50s until 1968, when it was destroyed by fire. He specialised in designing and manufacturing tweeds and tartans through a cottage industry, including a tartan used by the state of

Maine. His daughters, Ruth and Lina say they remember him sitting at the kitchen table designing with crayons,"

Information like this is invaluable in that it adds substance to tartan and gives us a glimpse of the human being behind the design. Using coloured crayons to design a tartan must really have been a labour of love.



Above, another of Sol's tartans - the Yarmouth. Below, Michael & Francis with the Ancient Atlantic.



Chris Hadfield



Hadfield, 53, an engineer and former test pilot from Milton, Ontario, was Canada's first professional astronaut to live aboard the space station and became the first Canadian in charge of a spacecraft. He relinquished command of the space station on Sunday.

"It's just been an extremely fulfilling and amazing experience end to end," Hadfield told Mission Control yesterday. "From this Canadian to all the rest of them, I offer an enormous debt of thanks." He was referring to all those in the Canadian Space Agency who helped make his flight possible.

Hadfield bowed out of orbit by posting a music video on YouTube on Sunday — his own custom version of David Bowie's "Space Oddity." It's believed to be the first music video made in space, according to NASA.

"With deference to the genius of David Bowie, here's Space Oddity, recorded on Station. A last glimpse of the World," Hadfield said via Twitter.

Hadfield sang often in orbit, using a guitar already aboard the complex, and even took part in a live, Canadian coast-to-coast concert in February that included the Barenaked Ladies' Ed Robertson and a youth choir.

The five-minute video posted Sunday drew a salute from Bowie's official Facebook page: "It's possibly the most poignant version of the song ever created."

You can watch the video which has already had millions of views at:
<http://youtu.be/KaOC9danxNo>

Enigma Machine

This is a set of puzzles that were created by Doug Ross, a Scots Canadian, and now copies are appearing in Doctors surgeries, old folks homes, etc. I thought that in this issue I'd give you the first puzzle complete with answers so you can see how it works and then give you the second puzzle for you to work out for yourself.

I am now adding these to our ElectricCanadian.com web site and on there you can find the first 20 puzzles along with the answers. I intend to add one new puzzle each week to the site until we get all 100 of them up.

This might be a good activity to have at a charity event to keep these grey cells working!

Enigma Machine #1

① **REROUGHADY** ② **|R|E|A|D I|N|G|** ③ **T**
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④ **T** ⑤ **W**
— TIME — **SITE SITE SITE SITE** **N**
S

⑥ **crhoacikr** ⑦ **0** ⑧ **MAN** ⑨ **BLOCK**
B.Sc. **BOARD**
M. A.
Ph.D

⑩ **SAND** ⑪ **COUNT** ⑫ **CHANCE**
IT

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Answers

1. Rough and ready
2. Reading between the lines
3. Downtown
4. It is about time.
5. Foresight
6. Rocking chair
7. Three degrees below zero
8. Man over board
9. Chip off the old block, a
10. Sand box
11. Count on it
12. Fat chance

So now you now you know how it works here is the second one for you to work on yourself.

Enigma Machine #2

①

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class class class class

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Priory Contacts:

Grand Priory of Canada

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

Priory of the Ascension of our Lord, Windsor

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

St James Priory, Toronto

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

Priory of Simon Peter, Ottawa

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

Commandary of Edmonton

[Sir Robert MacMullen](#)

Newsletter Editors

Sir Alastair McIntyre GOTJ (alastairi@electricscotland.com)

H. E. The Rev Dame Nola Crewe (prior3@torontotemplars.com)