



Knight Templar

VOLUME LIX

DECEMBER 2013

NUMBER 12



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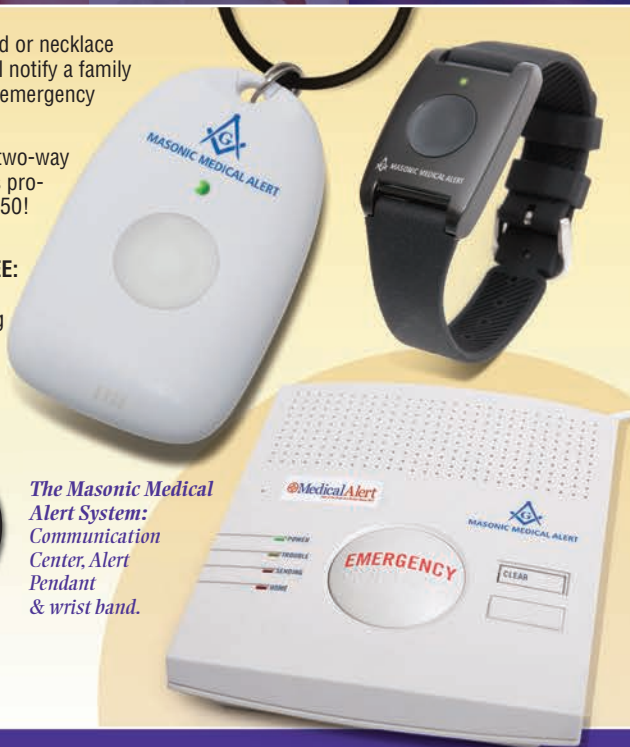
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Knight Templar Magazine 12/13

Knight Templar

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**Cover photo of nativity stained
 glass window. Photographer and
 location unknown.**

Grand Encampment Web Site: <http://www.knightstemplar.org>

Grand Master's Message

Where has 2013 gone? We just finished the fall run of Department Conferences and have been very pleased with the attendance. The required officers are honoring their obligations to attend, and many other officers are also attending. There is a wealth of information available at these conferences, so we ask that you encourage all interested Sir Knights to attend future conferences. Every Sir Knight is welcome and encouraged to attend. The more, the merrier!

Speaking of merrier, December brings the cold blast of snow for many but also the warm feelings of love, peace, happiness, and the joy of Christmas for all.

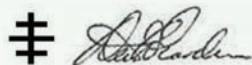
The Christmas season is filled with family and friends, but we must never forget the real reason for the season, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He came into the world to show us God's love as well as to show us the way to everlasting life. While we should all enjoy the Christmas trees, lights, presents, and dinners, we should also always incorporate that wonderful story of a night in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago that changed the world forever.

Please read the message of the Right Eminent Grand Prelate for a minister's view of Christmas. The toast to the Grand Master from the Committee on Religious Activities and my response are also to be found in this edition.

Each Commandery is encouraged to set aside a time for a Christmas observance that can be shared with fellow Sir Knights, families, fellow Masons, and the community in general. What better way to share the love of the season than by worshipping together?

The officers and ladies of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar join with my Lady Marci and me in wishing you a very blessed and merry Christmas!

Courteously,



David Dixon Goodwin, GCT
Grand Master



The future is ours! We must seize the moment!
Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar.

Prelate's Chapel

by
Rev. William D. Hartman, Right Eminent
Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment



A long time ago, a little boy was born in a stable - not necessarily a unique experience for a very pregnant wife on a journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem with her husband. What was unique was that the baby born that night in a stable was the promised Messiah of the world.

Shepherds were out in the fields around Bethlehem "keeping watch over their flocks by night," when an angel appeared to them. They were frightened, because they knew from their ancient scriptures that when angels appeared, it meant bad things were about to happen. The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I bring you good news ... For unto you is born ... in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Then a host of angels appeared and sang in chorus, disappearing as quickly as they had appeared, and the shepherds, now excited, went to see this thing that had come to pass.

Wise men east of Israel had seen a new star appear which led them to Jerusalem. They brought gifts with them to present to the new King that had just been born. Herod had no son born to him at that time, but he knew enough to inquire of his priests where the Christ was to be born.

They told him in Bethlehem of Judea. Herod encouraged the wise men to go find this new child, and so they followed the star which led them to the holy family in Bethlehem. They fell down to worship this newborn baby Jesus and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Many of us travel at this time of year, often to deliver gifts. Let us never lose focus on the greatest gift given to all the world for all of time, God's gift of His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the great Captain of our salvation.

"Thou didn't leave thy throne and thy kingly crown, When thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room for thy holy nativity.
O Come to my heart, Lord Jesus. There is room in my heart for thee."

(Emily E.S. Elliott)

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A Chat With The Managing Editor

At this time of year, I tend to think about what I am thankful for. I am thankful for having had the opportunity to grow up in the United States of America during the 1950s and 1960s. Folks will try to tell you nowadays that our country is not and never has been a Christian country. That's called propaganda. I had a course in propaganda when I was in the military. If you tell a lie often enough, no matter how ridiculous it is, many folks will actually begin to believe it, and others will pretend to believe it in order to be accepted. It is like the story of the Emperor's new suit.

I suppose it depends on how you define a Christian country. We have always welcomed folks of all faiths into our country and even those with no faith at all, but many of the original folks came here to practice Christianity in their own way, because they had not been allowed to do so in their home countries. The Christianity I know is tolerant of other's beliefs. Now don't get me wrong, I disagree with a bunch of folks, even some of the Christians, but I believe it is their right to believe as they see fit. I do not recall a single instance where Jesus Christ forced or coerced someone to see things His way. Trying to do that seems to me to be a bit like trying to teach a pig to sing. It is seldom successful, and it irritates the pig. Besides, my wife always tells me that I have a right to be wrong.

Generally, all I ask of others is that they extend to me the same courtesy of allowing me to believe what I want to believe. Now this doesn't mean that I advocate bad behavior (Sometimes referred to as sin). I can tolerate what I consider to be your bad behavior as long as you don't insist on me advocating it. If you do, I get a little touchy.

I don't know where I intended to go with all this other than to thank God that I live in a place where nobody tells me what I have to think. Aren't you thankful for that, too?

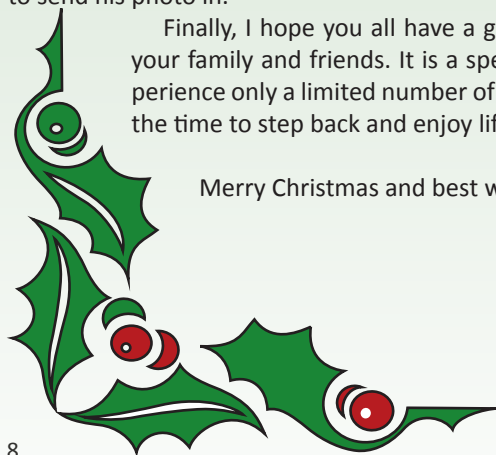
On to another subject, I know that some of your Grand Commander's photos are missing from this month's issue. That's because I couldn't get them to send a photo to me. Next year, maybe you could help me to encourage your Grand Commander to send his photo in.

Finally, I hope you all have a great Christmas season, hopefully with your family and friends. It is a special time of year, and we all get to experience only a limited number of them. Make the most of this one. Take the time to step back and enjoy life for a change.

Merry Christmas and best wishes from Glenda, Precious, and me!



John L. Palmer
Managing Editor



Christmas 2013

By
The Late Reverend Sir Knight Donald C. Kerr

There is some common ground between Christmas and Hanukkah. Christmas celebrates the coming of a Savior who is Jesus Christ. It is also a time for music, lights, presents, and giving. Hanukkah tells the story of Judas Maccabee, a Jewish savior who rescued Israel from foreign domination. It likewise celebrates gifts and joviality and family gatherings. One difference is that Christmas is only for one day, while Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days.

In thinking about this time of celebration, here is a story that speaks to the wonder and magic of the season. A little boy, who was having dreams of what this time means, was reminded by his mother that there would be boys and girls who would not have a happy time. "Why," he asked, "wouldn't Santa Claus come to all children?" "Yes, I guess he would," his mother replied, "but some children would not be getting all the nice toys you will have."

The young boy thought about that, and in a day or two, he had wrapped as neatly as he could, a package to give to his mother. It wasn't wrapped as neatly as his mother would have done, but it had on it a ribbon and some colored paper around it. "Here, mom," the boy said, "this is my favorite toy. I'm going to leave it here for Santa to take it to some other boy."

Whether we believe in Santa Claus or not doesn't matter. What does matter is that at this season of the year we become concerned with those who need our help and protection. One of the best examples is how Shriners care for the burned and crippled children. We give so that others may have. Another exemplary way we can express our concern is by way of our Templar Eye Foundation by which those with failing eyesight are given the means to save their eyesight.

So, a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah to all!



The late Reverend Sir Knight Donald C. Kerr was a member of Beauseant Commandery No. 8, Baltimore, Maryland and was Pastor-emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore.

Knights Templar Cross of Honor Templary's Highest Award

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America presents the recipients of the Knights Templar Cross of Honor for the year 2013. These distinguished Sir Knights have demonstrated meritorious service and have been rewarded for it. The *Constitution and Statutes* of the Grand Encampment state that the Knights Templar Cross of Honor "shall be awarded only for exceptional and meritorious service rendered to the order far beyond the call of duty and beyond the service usually expected of an officer or member."

This year the Grand Commanderies have selected only fifty-seven Sir Knights to receive the coveted Cross of Honor.

ALABAMA

C. Sterling Hughes
Dothan No. 25

ALASKA

Dennis Norman Oakland
Mat-Su Valley No. 4

ARIZONA

Myron John "Mike" Lewis
Burning Taper No. 15

ARKANSAS

Jack C. Buell
Jacques DeMolay No. 3

CALIFORNIA

Patrick Gage Bailey
Palo Alto No. 47

David Edward Sokol
Red Bluff No. 17

COLORADO

Jaymie Vaughn
Flatirons No. 7

DELAWARE

Maurice C. "Moe" Barnes
St. Andrews No. 2

FLORIDA

Carl J. Kirtley
Coeur De Lion No. 1

GEORGIA

Benjamin W. Polston, II
St. Bernard No. 25

HAWAII

Cletus M. Ching
Honolulu No. 1

IDAHO

Jeremy C. Vaughn
Twin Falls No. 10

ILLINOIS

Max Edward Guthrie
Mt. Olivet No. 38

INDIANA

Gary A. Nicholson
Baldwin No. 2

Byron Wendell Schull
Richmond No. 8

IOWA

Kenneth Alan Brickman
St. Aldemar No. 30

ITALY

Saverio Brullo
Noimistron No. 18

KANSAS

Warner Pape
Hiawatha No. 13

KENTUCKY

Billy Elkins Scolf
Newport No. 13

LOUISIANA

Gerald H. Houston
Rhodes No. 17

MAINE

John David Baggett
Palestine No. 14

MARYLAND

J. Michael Robbins
Carroll No. 17

MASSACHUSETTS/ RHODE ISLAND

John Kyron Andrews
Worcester County No. 5
Richard Glenn Bernheart
Milford No. 11

MICHIGAN

Lawrence Warren Hyde
Marshall No. 17

MINNESOTA

Joseph Jon Anderson
Zion No. 2

MISSISSIPPI

Jiles Kenneth Grice
Hattiesburg No. 21

NEBRASKA

James D. Gansemer
Mt. Zion No. 5

NEVADA

Michael Fuhlendorf
Lahontan No. 7

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Glen Reid Gordon
DeWitt Clinton No. 2

NEW JERSEY

Scott Gothe
Melita No. 13

NEW MEXICO

James Herbert Rixon
Shiprock No. 15

NEW YORK

Joseph M. Deamer
St. George No. 37

NORTH CAROLINA

Donald B. Street
Raleigh No. 4

NORTH DAKOTA

Ronald L. Penfold
Tancred No. 1

OHIO

James H. Foreman
Fremont No. 56

D. Douglas Dolan
Eagle No. 29

Cecil Clyde Nottingham
Holyrood No. 32

OKLAHOMA

Jay Allen Wall
Guthrie No. 1

OREGON

Arlie Melvin Thomason
Pacific No. 10

PENNSYLVANIA

A. Preston Van Deursen
Cyrene No. 34

Clifton Leonard Kent
Lancaster No. 27

PHILIPPINES

Ramil V. Huele
Philipinas No. 11

SOUTH CAROLINA

James Russell Phillips
Gaffney No. 18

SOUTH DAKOTA

Herbert Edward Cook
Schrader No. 9

TENNESSEE

Robert Levoy Peay
De Payens No. 11

TEXAS

Mitchell Ray Jones
Alexander C. Garrett No. 103

John E. Cline
Sweetwater No. 89

Robert Lance Clemmons
Lubbock No. 60

UTAH

Timothy James Robertson
Charles Fred Jennings No. 6

VERMONT

Winston W. Harper
Malta No. 10

VIRGINIA

Frederick Edwin Lewis
Malta No. 24

WASHINGTON

James Rex Hartsfield
Hesperus No. 8

WEST VIRGINIA

Charles H. Mann
Greenbrier No. 15

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976 Sven Golling
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SALUTING OUR GRAND COMMANDERS

Congratulations are extended from our Most Eminent Grand Master to the Grand Commanders of the Grand Commanderies. As a salute to their dedication and tireless service to Templary, *Knight Templar* magazine is printing the names and the available pictures of the Sir Knights who will serve as Grand Commanders for the current Templary year.



James S. Blanteno
ALABAMA



Johnnie L. Wallace
ALASKA



Terry Kelly
ARIZONA



C. S. Walker
ARKANSAS



Myron Tisdell
CALIFORNIA



David L. Salberg
COLORADO



Stuart K. Drost
CONNECTICUT



James Horn
DELEWARE



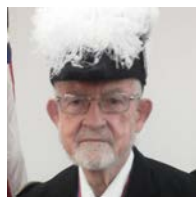
Craig R. Lasher
DIST. OF COL.



Henry Adams
FLORIDA



C. Danny Wofford
GEORGIA



John B. Connell
HAWAII



Richard L. Rowe
IDAHO



Kenneth Wayne Smith
ILLINOIS



Jack F. Wallace
INDIANA



Terry L. Hudik
IOWA



Giovanni Pascale
ITALY



H. Wayne Rector
KANSAS

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William F. Lile
KENTUCKY



Frank N. du Treil
LOUISIANA



Frank T. Palmer
MAINE



Richard A. Ortt, Sr.
MARYLAND



Hiram A. Jamiel, II
MASS./RI.



Howard H. Crumit, Jr.
MICHIGAN



Richard C. Kachman
MINNESOTA



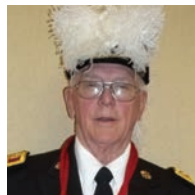
Jerry Lee Lewis
MISSISSIPPI

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Richard L. Mansfield
MISSOURI



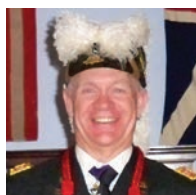
Jeffry A. Bolstad
MONTANA



James A. Clark
NEBRASKA



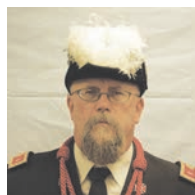
Michael E. Reinhardt
NEVADA



R. Bradley Alderfer
NEW HAMPSHIRE



Herbert R. Wood
NEW JERSEY



D. W. Winchester
NEW MEXICO



Kenneth I. Sussman
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Roger R. Rebanal
THE PHILIPPINES



Vitor Gabao Veiga
PORTUGAL



Ilie Ionel Ciuclea
ROMANIA



Zeb Morgan
SOUTH CAROLINA



Lawrence W. O. Holmes
SOUTH DAKOTA



Charles M. Thames
TENNESSEE



H. Bart Henderson
TEXAS



Marc Ata Adote
TOGO



Preston Martineau, Jr.
UTAH



Pierre-Denis Leger
VERMONT



Lawrence Barton Smith
VIRGINIA



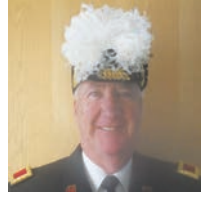
Harold G. Rothgeb
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Merry Christmas Sir Knights!

I hope your homes like mine are alive and filled with the sounds and joys of this holy season. Joy is in the air on the faces of those we meet and in the embrace of friends and loved ones. As Knights Templar, we are preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Master. We should shout from the mountain tops that Christ is born. Can you imagine the amazement of the shepherds when the angel appeared with the news of the birth of the Savior, the joy they must have felt as the heavens parted and the host of angels sang "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men?" Two thousand years ago, hope was given to man, and we prepare to celebrate that hope through the birth of the Christ child.

What an amazing gift was given to man. Each of us has the ability to impact the lives of others. When you gather in your Commanderies, large and small, for your Christmas observances, please take a moment and give prayerful consideration to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Would you consider passing the hat and using the proceeds you collect to purchase life memberships for Sir Knights in your home Commandery?

If you need help identifying who in your Commandery does not have a life membership, contact the Knights Templar Eye Foundation office at 214-888-0220, and we can get a list to your Recorder.

It is my hope that you have the most joyous Christmas ever, that your homes are filled with love, and that the mercy of God is showered upon you in all His abundance. This Christmas morning as I am sitting in my chair with my dogs, Bear and Peanut, lying at my feet, writing my check for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, I pray that you will join me in this simple act of kindness and provide hope to others.

Terry L. Plemons, KGC



Letters to the Editor



Dear Brother John;

Your "Chat" in the March 2013 issue is right spot on! A corollary to your "cause and effect" is this definition of Insanity: "keep on doing the same things and expect a different outcome." America is reaping what she has sown, rejection of God and His Word and the total acceptance of secular humanism, which has led to a virtual abandonment of moral standards and has produced a quagmire of compromises! As I said in my layman's message recently to my Lake Jackson Bible Church, we need to reread John 17:11-19, emphasizing the disciples of Christ's (is that not what Knights Templar are?) active role or mission of going "into the world, but not of it." As Knights Templar, it's our conduct that matters; the impact we have on society to preserve our culture of Christianity. Will we "speak out" or remain silent?

V/R, Kerry B. Magee P.C.
Litt S. Perry Commandery No. 111
West Columbia, TX



Sir Knight Palmer,

I just had to write in and tell you how much I appreciated the honesty and your perspective in the March issue "A Chat with the Managing Editor." Every point in the piece was well thought out and in my opinion, spot on.

Today's society is always looking for solutions (or blame) in the wrong places. I think you touched on almost every problem we have facing our county to knight templar

day, and everything you said was "politically incorrect!" I find it amazing that the very people who espouse political correctness (I call them the PC Police) are the first ones to offer solutions much removed from the real problem (read gun bans for mass shootings). If guns kill people, then pencils misspell words, and spoons make people fat.

I think it starts at home, with a two parent family, happily married, and fully engaged in the extremely important responsibility of raising their children.

We taught our children that in every situation they have the choice of whether they are happy or sad. Attitude is what will give you happiness. Even when things seem really bad, all you have to do is count your blessings, look around at others, and find good reasons to be happy and content. I read somewhere once that if you had a room full of people and everyone put all of their problems in a pile in the middle of the floor, that when they went to pick out problems to take back, almost everyone would pick their own problems. I believe that is true, and people need to understand how to deal with life in positive ways rather than the childish acting out that we see so much from not only the criminals in our society but from our politicians and leaders as well.

All this talk about "fairness" is really just a ploy to get people divided from each other. There is much truth in the old saying "United We Stand, Divided We Fall."

I'm not sure how we fix all this at this point, but I hope you repaired your Nativity scene and displayed it proudly for

Continued on page 20.

General Supplement

The space on these two pages is provided by the *Knight Templar* magazine to be used by the Grand Commanderies to communicate with the individual Sir Knights in their jurisdictions on a monthly basis. From time to time and for various reasons, we fail to receive any material from the editor of the state supplement for a given month. When this happens, we take the opportunity to offer you the information below. – The Ed.

Photos of temple ruins on the Acropolis in Athens taken by the editor.





knight templar



Letters to the Editor



Continued from page 17

the rest of the season!

Courteously and Respectfully,
Robert O. Finley, PGC
Wyoming



Dear, Sir Knight John Palmer

I am writing you in regards to your "A Chat With The Managing Editor" article in the March 2013 *Knight Templar* issue. I would like to say THANK YOU for speaking and writing the truth, while realizing that you will most definitely receive some negative kickback for doing it as such. This is one example of a true act of bravery. In today's society, many people would rather not hear the truth for the simple fact that they don't want to believe it, or pretend that it doesn't exist by simply ignoring it. Like the old saying goes: "The Truth Hurts," and many times it does, but the truth is the truth, if it is regarding politics, history, or the good news of our Lord and Savior, the truth doesn't change. I believe more of us need to hear and accept the truth regardless of how much it may hurt us to believe it, and I thank you again for spelling it out all so clearly on the deteriorating condition of our society. I believe more Sir Knights need to stand up, be brave, and not be afraid to speak the truth like our brave managing editor, Sir Knight John L. Palmer, has done. Thank you Brother and fellow Sir Knight, and keep up the good and faithful work.

Sincerely,
Sir Knight Andrew J. Holman
Huntertown, Indiana

[To Sir Knight Tom Jackson]
Dear Brother Jackson,

Thank you very much for that excellent and inspiring article in the current *Knight Templar* magazine, which arrived this morning.

I have found symbolic Freemasonry to be frankly disappointing. Our local lodge is interested in programs about how to grow better gardens or shoot more deer. I have tried to change the focus a bit by giving several talks on the spiritual symbolism of the Craft, only to be laughed at or insulted, or worse, have had an audience of snoring Masons.

Some years ago I read somewhere a piece that suggested if we offered programs about Masonry, we would have a crowded lodge room at every meeting. I have never been able to find that reference again. I think it was in something like *Masonic Harvest* by C. H. Claudy, but although it sounds more like Brother Claudy, it could have been in J. F. Newton's *The Builders*. A program reviewing a book like *The Meaning Of Masonry* by Brother Wilmshurst would, perhaps, begin to move us away from being a boys' club with a secret handshake or one more group doing good works without a spiritual or philosophical basis.

Again, thank you for this article. Were I in a position to do so, I would require it to be read at all Lodges!

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Dick Stinson

Knights Templar Eye Foundation Grant Awarded

The \$60,000 grant was awarded to Shankar Swaminathan, Ph.D., from The Hamilton Eye Institute at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, to study ADRP (Autosomal Dominant Retinitis Pigmentosa) which is an inherited disorder. People suffering from ADRP are born with the disorder programmed into their cells.

In people with ADRP, vision loss occurs as the light-sensing cells (rods) of the retina gradually deteriorate. The first sign of ADRP in affected children can be seen

as early as age ten, and is usually a loss of night vision. Later, the disease causes blind spots to develop in the peripheral vision that merge to produce tunnel vision. The disease progresses further to affect central vision, leading to blindness. One of the parents would have most likely had the disease, thus making genetic detection in a child easier. Many of the rods are dead when the first symptoms are



Pictured left to right – Sir Knight H. Glenn Beck, Jr., Past Grand Commander of Tennessee; Monica M. Jablonski, Ph.D.; Shankar Swaminathan, Ph.D. (recipient of the grant); Sir Knight H. Ted Burgess, Southeastern Department Commander; Sir Knight Charles M. Thames, Grand Commander of Tennessee.

seen; hence clinical intervention is necessary in early childhood. There are no known treatment options for ADRP. A natural phytochemical (NPh) has recently shown promise in improving the retinal structure and function. However, its effective clinical delivery has posed many problems for the formulation scientists. Marketed oral supplements are only poorly bioavailable with high doses.

During this study, they aim to use a novel nano-carrier for NPh, keeping the NPh solubilized and stable. Further, they will modify the nano-carrier chemically and coat it with another polymer. This polymeric assembly would stabilize NPh and can be used as a bioadhesive, once-a-day eye drop formulation. They will also test the effectiveness of their formulation in a mouse model with symptoms similar to human ADRP.

knight templar

The Inn

By
Sir Knight Paul Fuhrmann

It is such a busy time; I have hardly had any rest at all. It seems that there's always an angry guest when a room isn't clean or an irritable guest when the food isn't ready on time. There are constant interruptions; the stable boy wants money for feed while the cook argues with me about the next meal, and the maid complains because the well is so far away. Not a minute's rest, I tell you. Arrogant Roman soldiers come in and take all they want. "See the quartermaster for your pay," they tell me. How do you argue with a man carrying a sword? Treat them poorly, and more come. Treat them well, and more come. What's a poor innkeeper to do?

This wasn't my original plan, I'll have you know. This was supposed to be ... well...less work and more pay. The guests make more work and the tax man takes the pay. He even eats my food and then collects. Why can't he come here after he eats somewhere else, I'd like to know. Feed him for free and then pay him, and he's not even a relative; by relatives, I'd expect to be treated like this. I tell you, the only thing worse than a hungry publican is a visiting brother-in-law with a wife and five kids.

Been to Joppa? Have I been to Joppa you want to know? I was born and raised in Joppa, the son of a seafaring man. How I loved the sea. Sometimes I'd just sit on the shore listening to the cries of soaring gulls and the sighing of the surf. My heart would leap at the first sight of the sails on my father's returning ship. Ah, the stories he could tell – the wonders he had seen – they fired my imagination. Wonders of Greece and Rome and Egypt; he knew them all. He had even once seen a King! Then one terrible night we received word that his ship had gone down with all hands. I became, at thirteen, the man of the house, and the night demons began frequent visits.

No dreams of adventure for me, no sir! My uncle bound me as a shipbuilder's apprentice and bound my life to Joppa. I'm not sure which is harder work, building ships by day or fighting demons by night. "Am I good enough, big enough, fast enough, strong enough?" they haunt me. "You could do more; you must do more!" they taunt me.

We built strong ships for the King, and we survived. When you work for the King, the tax man sometimes forgets to visit you, and soldiers from Rome have no interest in Jewish ships except the ones bearing incoming cargo. It's not a good life, but it's a life. Then there was this accident at the shipyard; my body could no longer work to build great ships. "Come," my uncle says, "at the town of your fathers there is an inn
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for sale. Others can work for you, and your old age will be more comfortable.” So by the unlucky slip of a rope, I became an innkeeper.

In good times, there are probably worse places than this isolated village but not many, and these times are not good times.

Each day of summer, the sun sears the parched ground almost to lifelessness as trees and grass and crops fight to survive. Even the breezes at night are warm upon your face, so you look forward to winter. Then cold freezes your very bones and turns all the earth to stone. Then you pray for summer. So it goes. This village seems to be an unwelcome intruder upon an unyielding land. There is never enough meal, never enough firewood, never enough water, and always there are hungry, tired soldiers. I do not sleep at night.

As the yoke is to the ox, so Rome is to Israel, an ever demanding and insistent burden. Caesar is not content just to tax us. He orders that we are all to be counted; he wants to know how many of us there are to pay, so we must all go to the city of our fathers and be enrolled. It’s good for business, because I’ll have a lot of guests, but bad for me because the publican will demand more. “Full house again this night?” he wants to know. He just holds out his hand, and I pay.

My days and nights; now, they seem to rush together. Get food; argue with the cook. Get water; argue with the maid. Try to find hay and straw; argue with the stable boy who is arguing with the maid who is arguing with the cook who is arguing with me. The demons rage, and I cannot sleep at night.

Then, one evening, a young man comes to me with pleading eyes. “Sir,” he says, “have you any room? We have traveled far, and my wife is with child. We have no place to stay.”

“I have no rooms,” I say. “I may sleep in the stable myself tonight, but the roof leaks.”

“I’ll fix the roof;” he says. “I am a carpenter.” From the look of him, the stable is all he can afford.

“Stay in my stable as long as you like.” I tell him. I can’t afford to fix the roof any other way, anyhow.

So he leads a gaunt burro and its frail passenger from the cold into the stable, and I wearily drag my body to the inn. The maid is still in the kitchen as I sit by the fire to warm myself. “Is there any dinner left?” I want to know. She gives me a small piece of bread, a piece of meat in broth, and a small cup of wine. “This is all,” she replies, “until tomorrow.”

knight templar

I know I'm too tired to eat but not tired enough to sleep. I give back to her the meager meal. "There is a young man with his wife staying in the stable tonight." I tell her. "Give this to him, and see if you can help the woman be comfortable."

Warmth from the fire draws my eyes closed for a lingering moment. When I awaken, the maid is gone. I close my eyes again, wishing to sleep but not to dream. My eyes search the glowing coals in the hearth. I must have slept for a very long time, I think, for the fire is almost out, but as usual, I am not rested.

Every part of me resists arising, but I must attend to my latest guests, so I pass through the courtyard to the stable. As I enter, all is in darkness but for a soft and unexplained glow in one remote corner of the stable. I find there the man and woman sleeping and a newborn baby in the manger nearby. There is no sound except soft murmurs from the sleeping animals. There is no reason for the light; yet in my wonder I do not question it.

My fingers touch rough wood and soft straw as I kneel beside the child. "Another poor taxpayer." I think. "Caesar has one more to carry the glorious burden of Rome. Perhaps his share will lessen ours."

"Why is this child not crying?" I wonder. "In this day and age, all children cry until they are ten, and then they just cry on the inside."

One corner of his blanket has fallen away from the precious child. I reach to put it on him again; and he awakens. He reaches toward me and his tiny hand grasps my finger. He looks into my eyes, and a peace I have never known before comes to my heart and quiets the restlessness within my whole being. He smiles, releases his grasp, and falls asleep.

The soldiers still come. The publican still comes. My brother-in-law and his family still come, but I can sleep at night, for I am no longer afraid.

"The Inn" is copyrighted by Sir Knight Paul D. Fuhrmann and is used with his permission. Sir Knight Fuhrmann is a member of Columbia Commandery No. 22 in Sturgis, Michigan but resides in Missouri and can be reached at pdfbari@aol.com.



The Hidden Mysteries of Kefalonia; Crusaders, Byzantium and Venetians

By
Dr. David Harrison

Kefalonia is a beautiful Greek island; the largest of the Ionian Islands, it lies just to the west of mainland Greece. The island was the center of the Byzantine theme of Cephallenia until 1185, and it was during this period that the island was raided by Normans and Crusaders on their way to the Holy Land. Wild horses still roam the Kefalonian countryside, said to be descended from horses set free during the Crusades. After the Byzantine rule, the island became part of the County Palatine of Cephallonia and Zakynthos, ruled under the Kingdom of Naples. This came to an end in 1479 when it fell under the sway of the Ottoman Empire, though their rule did not last long, as the Venetians captured the island in 1500. They went on to reconstruct



The view from outside the church.

the vast hill-top Castle of St. George, which became the capital and the center of the island and ruled for nearly three hundred years. The island formed part of a frontier against the Ottomans.

The castle, which was originally Byzantine, reminds one at first glance of the Crusader castles of the Holy Land, in particular



On the road to the castle.



The entrance to St. George's Castle, Skala, Kefalonia.

Margat Castle in Syria, built by the Knights Hospitallers. With its large buttresses and tall outer walls, it clings to the rocky hill-top and dominates the landscape, the cone-like hill visible for miles around.¹ The mighty military structure can be reached by a winding road that hugs the hill precariously, but once at the top, one is greeted by the small village of Kastro, with a small number of taverns and villas which occupy a road that leads up to the castle entrance. The cult of St. George reached its peak during the Crusades, the Saint becoming popular with Crusaders and influencing the Venetians, with churches in Venice dedicated to St. George who also became the patron saint of England due to the influence of the Crusades, the red cross of St. George becoming England's national flag.²

Driving through the winding roads of the island, you continually come across small villages, hidden gems of Greek culture. There are supposedly three hundred sixty-five villages, one for every



The church of St. Nicholas.

day of the year. Most of the villages seem to have their own olive groves, and one particular village, Svoronata, has an orchard of lemon trees by an ancient Church. In the orchard, a holy well is nestled contentedly among the

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A huge stone used in the wall of the gateway of the castle covered in graffiti from throughout the ages. Note the large cross at the bottom left.

lemon trees. It is covered with a canopy entwined with vines, bunches of red grapes hanging loosely. The place is quiet and peaceful like a sacred grove of contemplation.

The nearby Church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is a beautiful Greek Orthodox Church. As I entered the candlelit interior, the Church was being cleaned by women from the village who were polishing the icons, large brass candlesticks, and other artifacts. There was a curious eighteenth century model sailing ship hanging from the ceiling, and one of the local women told me it was a gift from an old sea captain, St. Nicholas being the patron Saint of sailors.³ St. Nicholas himself is displayed on a beautiful eighteenth century icon, revealing the Byzantine double headed eagle above him.

Kefalonia is full of mysteries from a by-gone period; a period of Crusaders, castles, and lost villages. The island has, knight templar

like many of the Greek islands, a war torn violent history, fought over by Crusaders, Byzantines, and Ottomans. Today however, it is a peaceful place, and its hidden secrets are revealed to those who wish to discover them.

Notes

¹ See R.H.C. Davis, *A History of Medieval Europe*, (London: Longman, 1992), pp.267-281.

² C.P.S Clarke, *Everyman's Book of Saints*, (London: A.R. Mowbray, 1939), p.116.

³ *Ibid*, p.335.

Dr. David Harrison is a United Kingdom based Masonic historian and author of the critically acclaimed *The Genesis of Freemasonry*, *The Transformation of Freemasonry*, and *The Liverpool Masonic Rebellion and the Wigan Grand Lodge*. His latest work, *A Quick Guide to Freemasonry*, is published by Lewis Masonic www.lewismasonic.com.

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



THE APARTMENTS OF THE GRAND PRELATE *and* THE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Year of our Lord 2013

To all Valiant and Magnanimous Knights of the Temple, wheresoever dispersed throughout Christendom ~
Salutations and Knightly Greetings:

A TOAST TO OUR MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER CHRISTMAS 2013

Our congratulations to you, Most Eminent Grand Master, as you have entered into your second year as leader of the Grand Encampment and of all chivalric Masons under its jurisdiction. You live with an integrity that is expected of your office.

Our Lord preached strongly against hypocrisy – saying one thing and living something else – as much or more than He did against other forms of evil, namely profiteering at the expense of others or taking advantage of the weak or disadvantaged. His example is a beacon for our putting our faith into action. You are our leader. Your life becomes a strong example of living our faith. In our fraternity, you can be, in fact, are the example to whom we look for guidance for how we live our lives, both as individuals and as members of our respective Commanderies.

This kind of leadership is far rarer than we would like, but you carry the responsibilities of your office with honor and commitment. Thanks be to Our Lord and Savior.

As we said last Christmas Season, may your leadership challenge us not to lose the meaning of the birth of our Lord. May you, and we, celebrate THAT He came as being more important than the details of HOW He came.

We drink a toast to you, Sir Knight David Dixon Goodwin. May your two remaining years be a "light to the nations," and to all of us as you continue as our Most Eminent Grand Master.

In His name,

Sir Knight and Reverend William D. Hartman, Grand Prelate

The Committee on Religious Activities

Sir Knight and Reverend James R. Herrington, P.G.C., Chairman

Sir Knight and Reverend Timothy M. Taylor, Sr., P.G.C.

Sir Knight and Reverend Bruce Bellmore, P.G.C.



GRAND MASTER'S RESPONSE

Christmas 2013

To the Right Eminent Grand Prelate, The Committee on Religious Activities, and all Sir Knights wheresoever dispersed:

Knightly Greetings!

I extend my most sincere thanks to the Committee on Religious Activities and the Right Eminent Grand Prelate for their thoughtful and inspiring toast this Christmas season.

I appreciate the kind words regarding my stewardship of this Grand Encampment, but rather than an example, I prefer to consider the office as one of a cheerleader. All of the officers of the Grand Encampment are here to promote our values and to encourage each Sir Knight to live according to our principles. If we treat each Sir Knight as a Christian brother, if we show compassion and true caring for our Sir Knights, if we include our Christian Faith and our families in our activities, then we will indeed be living our theme of "Chivalry, Christianity, Templary... a way of life!" If we do these things, then Templary will flourish and shed its good influence upon mankind.

We pray that each of our Templar families and the world at large may find peace, happiness, joy, and love during this Christmas season as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

The officers of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and their ladies join with my Lady Marci and me in wishing each of you and your families a most blessed and merry Christmas!

Courteously,

David Dixon Goodwin, GCT
Grand Master



The foregoing toast to the Most Eminent Grand Master and his response thereto are transmitted to you with the request that you extend an invitation through the proper offices to all Sir Knights within your jurisdiction to join in the sentiments thus conveyed at some convenient hour, on or near the birthday of Christ, commonly called Christmas Day, December twenty-fifth, in the Year of Grace 2013.

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1 night Hotel Holiday Inn Dijon
3 nights Hotel Belloy Saint Germain Paris
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May 07, 2014 Upon arrival at CDG airport, the group will be transferred by private coach to Paris. For your first day in Paris, enjoy a panoramic tour of Paris with guide - you will see : Champs-Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower (photo stop), Jardins du Trocadéro, Montmartre, Notre Dame Cathedral, and more! Check in in the afternoon at your hotel located in the heart of Saint Germain des Prés, in the Latin Quarter of Paris.
Overnight: Hotel Belloy Saint Germain
Meals: No meal included

May 08, 2014 Meet your guide and driver and start your 2-hour ride by private bus to the discovery of the Knight Templar First stop - COMMANDERIE D'ARVILLE. A 2-hour guided tour will be dedicated to explore the site, founded by the Templars in the early 12th century. The Commanderie remains, regarding the importance of the present buildings, a unique monument and one of the best preserved in France. After the visit, you will be driven to Brives La Gaillarde (4 ½ hour to 5 hours ride)
Overnight: Hotel Mercure Brive-La-Gaillarde
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner (3-course meal without drinks)

May 09, 2014 Morning tour of the medieval town of Sarlat. This town is well known for its medieval heritage, in the heart of a beautiful region and a landscape full of superb feudal castles. The old town has a Templar cemetery around the cathedral, where you can see a number of tombs marked with the distinctive cross. There is also a curious tower in the form of an arch known as the "lantern of the dead". In the afternoon, you will be driven to Millau. (3 ½ hour drive) Visit the House of Causse - glove manufacturer of Millau, founded in 1892 and supplier of Chanel, Vuitton, Hermès. - Optional - if times allow
Overnight: Hotel Mercure Millau
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

May 10, 2014 Visit of the Larzac plateau, where the Knights Templar took possession in the 12th century thanks to the gifting of land to the order and from which the revenue served to maintain the Knights in the Holy Land. 10.00am - arrive at Sainte-Eulalie de Cernon, and visit the commanderie of Sainte Eulalie (1h30)
2.00pm - visit La Cavalerie (1 hour)
4.00pm - visit La Couvertoirade (1 hour)
Free time in la Couvertoirade to visit the traditional shops
Overnight: Hotel Mercure Millau
Meals: Breakfast

May 11, 2014 2nd day of your discovery of the Larzac: On the way, you will have the occasion to view the world record tallest bridge, Viaduc de Millau, culminating at 343 metres (higher than the Eiffel tower) and 2460 metres long.

(15 min stop)

10.45am - Saint Jean d'Alcas

12.30pm - Lunch inside the Fort

2.00pm - Le Viala du Pas de Jaux

After the visit, you will be driven to the fortified town of Carcassonne

Overnight: Hotel Best Western Le Donjon Carcassonne

Meals: Breakfast, lunch

May 12, 2014 Today visit the cathar sites of Montségur and Foix in the Ariège Pyrenees. Chateau de Montségur: Situated at an altitude of 1,207 meters, Montségur castle is built on a natural site. The guided visit will allow you to hear all about the dramatic history of Montségur, conjuring up the lives of the Cathars on this mountain, the episodes of the siege until their horrendous end, burnt at the stake in 1244. The Foix Castle houses the collections of the Ariège Département Museum, where you can discover a range of themes as varied as the County's history, war in the Middle Ages and prisons in the 19th century. Before returning to your hotel, visit the church and village of Rennes-le-Chateau - known internationally for being at the center of various conspiracy theories, and for being the location of an alleged buried treasure discovered by its 19th-century priest Bérenger Saunière.

Overnight: Hotel Best Western Le Donjon Carcassonne

Meals: Breakfast

May 13, 2014 Drive to the Burgundy wine-growing region where you will visit the Commanderie of Bure-Les-Templiers. You can still see the "square courtyard", and the church "treasure" with a tombstone. Explore the village of Voulaines-les-Templiers which keeps alive the memory of another important commandery.

Overnight: Hotel Holiday Inn Dijon

Meals: Breakfast

May 14, 2014 On the way to Paris, you will first make a stop in Troyes to visit its cathedral of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. The site was originally occupied by an oratory in the 4th century, then a cathedral was built in the 9th century, and immediately destroyed by the Normans (or Vikings). A Romanesque style building was constructed in around 940, and was the seat of the Council of Troyes. This Council confirmed the important role played by the Order of the Knights Templar in about 1129 and its application of the Saint Benedict rule. The building was destroyed yet again 160 years later. A gothic cathedral was finally built in around 1200, but building continued up to the 17th century and was never fully completed! In the afternoon, stopping before returning to Paris we visit the Hugh de Paynes Museum in Paynes and Commandry of Avallaur, in Bar-sur-Seine

Overnight: Hotel Belloy Saint Germain

Meals: Breakfast

May 15, 2014 Full day at leisure

Overnight: Hotel Belloy Saint Germain

Meals: Breakfast

May 16, 2014 Full day at leisure. Farewell dinner in Paris and lot of memories to share!

Overnight: Hotel Belloy Saint Germain

Meals: Breakfast, dinner (3-course meal without drinks)

May 17, 2014 Transfer to CDG Airport

AF 012 17MAY CDGJFK HK26 1035A-1235P

Meals: Breakfast

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Managing Editor,
Knight Templar magazine

ktmagazine@comcast.net

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Indianapolis Assembly No. 90



(Mrs. T. Michael) Debhra Fegan's first official visit as Supreme Worthy President was on September 30, three days following her installation in the same city. In addition to Assembly officers, members, and visitors, those present included Worthy President, (Mrs. Tony) Monica Peterson; Supreme Marshal, (Mrs. Kris) Karen Williams; and their newest member, Mrs. Jack Thomas Moorman, who was initiated during the 93rd Supreme Assembly.

Report on the Grand Encampment New Year's Resolutions for 2013

In the January 2013 magazine, we listed the New Year's resolutions for 2013. I am pleased to make the following report:

1. We will return to basics. We will treat each Sir Knight as a Brother, showing true compassion and caring.

Through articles in this magazine, visits to the Annual Conclaves of our Grand Commanderies, and Department Conferences, we have presented a consistent theme of returning to the ideals of fraternalism upon which our organization was founded.

2. We are a Masonic, Christian, family oriented fraternity. We will include our faith and our families in our activities whenever possible.

3. We will increase our visibility. We will make ourselves more attractive to both members and non-members within the Fraternity, community, and our charitable endeavors.

We have presented detailed programs at our Department Conferences giving many ideas about how to include other Masonic bodies, our Christian faith, our families, our communities, and our charities in our Templar activities.

4. We will develop leaders. We will continue our Emerging Leaders Program to develop future Templar leaders.

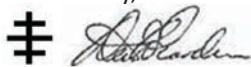
We have expanded our program to four levels. Levels one and two of basic and advanced leadership development, level three immersing participants in the general Department Conference sessions, and level four which encourages the undertaking of a special project. Successful completion of levels three and four include for the participants special recognition as certified leaders.

5. We will show pride in our order in all that we do. We will exert our best efforts in all that we do in Templary and be proud of those efforts and proud to be Knights Templar.

6. We will live by our theme, "Chivalry, Christianity, Templary.....A way of life!" We will live according to our principles in our daily lives, ensuring the success of our order.

As we visit the Annual Conclaves of your Grand Commanderies, we see that you do have pride in our Fraternity and that you agree with our theme as the way to success. While it is sometimes hard to judge success, we feel that, based upon our goals, we have been successful this year. You, Sir Knights, are the final judges. Please let us know if we are on the right track.

Courteously,



David Dixon Goodwin, GCT
Grand Master

The future is ours! We must seize the moment!

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

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*And the angel came in
unto her, and said, Hail,
thou that art highly
favoured, the Lord is with
thee; blessed art thou
among women.*

Luke 1: 28

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