

April / May / June 2013

Dear ones,

Spring got off to a very early start—crocuses in late December—a first for me! But since then, Spring has struggled, blooming without a lot of enthusiasm, but remaining mostly chilly at the Kentucky farm; and, in the North, a succession of blizzards. However, this too will pass and Spring will prevail, followed by the promise of Summer and, we pray, a Summer with plenty of rain. There is much to share, and much of it is unpleasant; but we need to know, for God's people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. And, above and beyond it all, it helps to remember that He is still in control.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD CRUCIFIES CHRISTIANS IN EGYPT

Sky News is the British cousin of our Fox News, both owned by the parent company, News Corp. In August, Sky News Arabia, broadcasting from Abu Dahbi, confirmed the news of the latest method of attack on Christians in Egypt: crucifixion. An unknown number of critics of Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi, and his Muslim Brotherhood government, were crucified naked, nailed to trees in front of the Presidential Palace. This has been confirmed to World Net Daily by various area sources, including Walid Shoebat, a former radical Muslim who is now a Christian authority on the Muslim Brotherhood. He reported that the story was published by Al Dosteur, a reputable Egyptian newspaper (including a photo of one of the victims), as well as other area news outlets, including Tunisia-Sat and Al-Wai Al-Arabi (Arab Awakening). (WND/Sky News)

MUSLIM RITUAL MURDERS IN NEW JERSEY

While the national media provided almost non-stop coverage of the killing of a model by her amputee-athlete boyfriend in South Africa, there was not a ripple concerning a ritual double murder of two Christians by a Muslim in New Jersey. This was despite the fact that the story was broken by a local ABC-TV affiliate in

New Jersey. According to New Jersey authorities a Muslim man, Yusuf Ibrahim, 28, of Buena Vista, NJ, beheaded two Coptic Christians, cut off their hands, and buried the bodies in his back yard, with the heads and hands in a separate hole. The victims of this ritual murder were from the Coptic Orthodox Christian Community in the area. Police described the killer as “ruthless” and “calculating.” And, I might add, the murderer was in perfect obedience to the Koran: “I will instill terror onto the hearts of the unbelievers, Smite ye above their necks and smite all their fingertips off them.” (Sura 8:12). (WND/Sky News/The Koran)

ISLAMIC GENOCIDE IN NIGERIA

Perhaps the two places where Christian genocide at the hands of Muslims is most severe are Indonesia and Nigeria. In Nigeria recently, a Catholic Church was surrounded, set on fire, and 500 Nigerian Christians, forced to remain inside the burning building, were burned to death. To alert the outside World to the genocide carried on against Christians in Nigeria for the past 10 years, Father Juan Carlos Martos, of the Missionary Secretariat in Rome, put the story and a photo of the victims on Facebook. To his amazement, Facebook management forced him to take down the photo and revoked his ability to post any photos for a week. And, he was further threatened with worse measures if he posts any document to publicize the Muslim crimes against Christians in Nigeria.

Because the color photo of the blackened victims is so horrible, and because children have access to this newsletter, I will not publish the photo here. However, you may see it on the home page of our web site, at our new web address, www.wordsforlivingministries.org. (Segretariato di PV Missionari Clarettiani, Via Sacro Cuore a Maria-500197-Rome)

A MUSLIM CIA DIRECTOR?

John Brennan, Obama’s new head of the Central Intelligence Agency, had a rocky time in being confirmed by the senate for his new position because of his questionable past decisions. The one thing, however, about which he was not questioned in confirmation hearings, is the fact that, for many years, he has been a convert to Islam. That’s right: our new Director of Central Intelligence is a Muslim. Many years ago, during a posting to a sensitive intelligence position in Saudi Arabia, under the guidance of the Saudis, he converted to Islam. Brennan has stated that he has visited Mecca during the annual pilgrimage called the Hajj, and only Muslims are allowed to take part in the Hajj; a non-Muslim discovered in Mecca at that time would be immediately killed, and probably torn apart by a mob.

Former FBI expert on Islam, John Guandolo, has long warned that our government is being infiltrated by the radical Muslim Brotherhood. Guandolo is convinced that Obama now has a CIA Director who is at least naïve to the threat or, at worst, is sympathetic if not complicit. The predictable left-wing media, of course, ignore or deny this. (WND/WT)

UGLY TRUTH ABOUT PROGRESSIVE INSURANCE

Progressive Insurance Company is the one with the commercials featuring that likeable, non-glamorous girl with the dark hair, red lipstick, and white dresses (or coveralls). The name “Progressive” should make us suspicious; and our suspicions would be on target. The company is a money-making tool of the progressive/Communist Left, which is doing its best to destroy our free enterprise system, and almost everything that you and I hold dear. The Progressive CEO, Peter Lewis, is one of the nation’s top backers of left-wing causes. Between 2001 and 2003 he gave \$15 Million to the ACLU, and \$12.5 Million to Move-On.org and America Coming Together, two key Socialist propaganda groups. And, what ties this all together in one evil package? George Soros. This evil, immensely wealthy man behind it all, has matched all of the money donated by Progressive Insurance, doubling it. I hope you will look elsewhere for your insurance. (Various, including Wikipedia and Snopes.com)

AND DON’T FORGET CITGO

In case you don’t remember, Citgo Gasoline belonged to America-hating, Communist dictator of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez. Hugo has gone to his reward, and the World is better off without him; but his like-minded disciple, and hand-picked successor as dictator, Nicolas Maduro, is taking his place. Those Citgo dollars keep flowing into the dictator’s treasury, enriching him, and funding a variety of aggressive programs, intended to destroy us. (Fox/AP/et al)

A SAD REPORT ON WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

It truly grieves me to say this, and for obvious reasons. If there is one group for whom I would do almost anything, it is disabled veterans. In fact, I am one; and that creates a bond impossible to be understood by anyone who isn’t one. The Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) has done, and is doing, a wonderful work; but I have been amazed and sickened to learn that their management is completely out of harmony with the values of those it is seeking to help.

In recent times it has been made public that Wounded Warrior Project will not accept gifts from individuals or groups representing churches or religious organizations, or anyone associated with the firearms industry. I have wondered about WWP, because they obviously have a lot of money, in order to buy the constant stream of advertising on network TV; but learning what I have just told you has literally sickened me.

You may want to complain to WWP management, but I doubt that it will do any good. Marty and I give to Disabled American Veterans, of which I am a life member, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the Marine Corps Semper Fi Injured Marine Fund (which, incidentally assists disabled veterans of all branches of service—not just Marines). You can see a WWP example of a rejection on religious grounds on the home page of our web site (it would take up too much room here). To see evidence concerning the weapons industry, go to the internet at

the site referenced here. (Fox News/Midsouth [Graybeard Outdoors 14 Nov 2012])

THE “GOSPEL OF THE MARRIED JESUS”

In September of 2012, a gathering of scholars hosted by the Vatican, assembled to hear from Karen L. King, Professor of Theology at Harvard Divinity School, about a small papyrus fragment that she believes strongly suggests that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene. Her position is based upon a fragment about the size of a calling card, written on both sides in faded black ink. It is written in ancient Egyptian Coptic, and there are no complete sentences—only broken words and phrases. She theorizes that it is a 4th Century A.D. document, copied from an earlier Greek document.

Prof. King has long been fascinated with the relationship between Jesus and Mary of Magdala. Although she does not present the fragment as “proof” that they were married, the thought is appealing to her, and she believes that it establishes that there were some in the very early Christian centuries who did believe it.

Amid great excitement among skeptical scholars, who seek to disprove traditional Christian beliefs, the Smithsonian Channel prepared to air a documentary on “the married Jesus.” But problems were apparent from the start. Dr. King received the fragment from a man she did not know, whose identity she can’t reveal, who said that he had bought it from a collector of ancient documents, who bought it in Germany. There is no provenance (history of its existence) for the fragment. The Vatican, skeptical from the beginning, quickly declared it to be a fake, and the Smithsonian delayed airing its documentary “indefinitely.”

The lesson for us here, I think, is how quickly critics of the Bible will seize upon an unsubstantiated fragment, wishing to “prove” the Bible to be unreliable, while ignoring the mountain of solid evidence to support its validity. In case you are not aware of it, there is more documentary evidence for the historicity of the Bible than there is for any other work of ancient literature; nothing else in ancient literature even comes close. (Smithsonian/Fox/CNN, et al)



Professor King looking at the papyrus fragment.



The papyrus fragment enlarged

THE OLDEST WRITTEN SCRIPTURE

In 1979-1980 a team of Israeli archeologists, led by Professor Gabriel Barkay, discovered the oldest writing of Scripture yet found. It is the great benediction of Numbers 6:24-26, with which God directed Aaron to bless the people: "The LORD bless thee and keep thee; The LORD make his face shine upon thee; The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." It is worded just as we have it today in our Bibles.

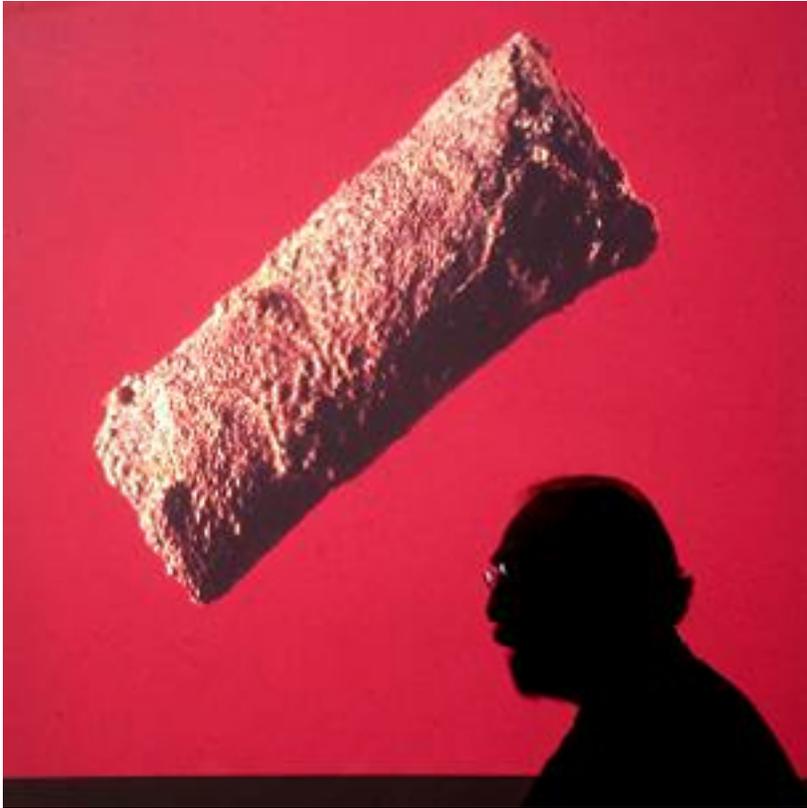
The passage, and other verses, are engraved in tiny Hebrew characters on two small silver scrolls, thin sheets of silver, rolled up in two small silver cylinders. Barkay, who led the expedition that found them in a burial cave near Jerusalem, describes them as “about the size of a cigarette butt.” The larger silver scroll, with the blessing of Numbers 6, required three years to unroll without destroying it. They are dated from the 7th Century B.C., the time of Jeremiah and godly King Josiah, who led in the restoration of the Temple and the worship of God, and the re-discovery of the Holy Scriptures.

This is the oldest written portion of Scripture ever found, predating the oldest of the Dead Sea scrolls by at least 400 years; and it is the oldest written form of the unique name of God (YHWH [YAHWEH]) yet found. It is also the **only** artifact of **any** kind yet found from the period of the First (Solomon’s) Temple.

This wonderful discovery gives the lie to humanistic, critical scholars who insist that none of the Pentateuch was written until the time of Ezra and Nehemiah (about 400 B.C.); and it says much about divine preservation of the Word of God.

Barkay described the discovery in a book in 1986. Since then, advances in technology have revealed other verses on the two silver scrolls. Among archeologists, this is not news; but I believe that it will be exciting news to most of us. (BP/Biblical Archeology, et al)





Above right, a slideshow Image of the first canister as originally found, with shadow image of Professor Barkay. At left, Professort Barkay lecturing, with the first scroll unrolled and projected on a screen.

HOW IS JESUS “A RANSOM” FOR US?

Verse 6 of Chapter 2 of St. Paul’s first letter to his young disciple, Timothy, tells us that Christ Jesus “gave Himself a ransom for all.” In just the first seven words of verse 6, there are volumes of cosmic truth.

1. First, we see again the vital fact that Christ Jesus **gave** himself voluntarily, to suffer the unimaginable agonies, physical, emotional and spiritual, of becoming sin on the cross; He was a volunteer (John 10:17-18). He not only paid the sin debt for all of mankind on the cross; He, in some way not explained, **became sin** (II Corinthians 5:21). And, in what I have come to call “the sin-bearing moment,” for the first and only time in his eternal existence, his Father looked away, and He was utterly alone; for God cannot look upon sin. And Jesus cried out in physical and emotional agony, “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

NOTE: If you request it, we will send, as a gift, the summary, “The Sin-Bearing Moment,” from my Study Guide to the Bible, with a more complete explanation of that horrible, critical moment in human history, with rationale and cross-references to the Old and New Testaments. (I will give you a clue: Numbers 21:4-9).

2. Second, He became a ransom. The key here is in the underlying Greek. The

basic Greek word for “ransom” is *lutron*, meaning a price paid in money or other valuables in exchange for the freedom of a prisoner. But the Greek word rendered “ransom” in verse 6 is different; it is *antilutron*, which means the exchange of one person for another. In this case, the prisoner is set free, but only because another person takes his place as a prisoner. This Greek word is unique, in that it is used nowhere else in the New Testament. Thus it is made clear that God didn’t just reach into the treasury of Heaven and take something out of his limitless riches in order to purchase our redemption. Rather, He gave his only begotten Son, to take our place in condemnation, so that we might be set free. And the uniqueness of the word emphasizes the fact that this liberating act of self-sacrifice is itself unique; it has only occurred once, and need never be repeated.

STRANGE POLICIES IN TWO GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

An interesting thought has occurred to me. It is the ironic contrast in two government institutions, both in existence since the days of our founding fathers. In one, the government schools, reading of the Bible is now forbidden. In the other, the government prisons, reading of the Bible is not only allowed, it is encouraged. It seems to me that if reading the Bible were encouraged and practiced in government schools, there would be fewer men and women reading it in our government prisons.

AND SPEAKING OF BIBLES AND SCHOOLS

When Thomas Jefferson was president (and remember, it is his letter to the Danbury Baptists that enemies of God misquote to “prove” the non-existent “separation of Church and state”), he wore two hats. He was President of the US, and he was also Superintendent of the District of Columbia schools. One of his first acts as Superintendent of Schools was to order the printing of several thousand Bibles, so that each child in the schools could have a Bible. He considered the Bible to be the book most important to a child’s education. (various)

A POETIC INSIGHT CONCERNING ISRAEL AND ITS ENEMIES

Gary Bertnick, who now lives in Cornville, Arizona, is a Christian writer and poet. He specializes in the writing of free verse, which is rich in powerful poetic language and spiritual insights, but he also writes prose and other forms of poetry. He recently sent to me the following, which I think is exceptional in both insight and expression:

It’s difficult to watch the arrogant and prideful as they seek to divide and conquer Israel.

Their eventual goal is to destroy and block Messiah’s return. We see their foolishness and know the futility. But still tears move from deep within at the damage to be done by those who rule in transparent darkness.

If you are interested in Gary, his testimony, and his work, visit his web site at

www.silvercordspirit.com.

MARTY'S CORNER

Social Justice is one of the buzz words interspersed in today's culture between *diversity* and *global warming* (now called climate change because there is no global warming); it is most often used by used "progressives." For over a century, whole books and dissertations have been written about social justice without ever offering a definition of it. It just floats in the air as if everyone will recognize it when or if it appears. The vagueness is required because when one begins to define it, one runs into distressing logical problems. Social justice as a secular concept emerged mainly in the late twentieth century as a tool of the far left/socialists. It becomes a device of intimidation used to gain power of (legal) oppression and those who use the term assign it to social systems rather than to individual people. Therein lies the overall problem because "social justice" systems assign a regulative directive and the focus is on power rather than virtue.-

Ask anyone who promotes it and who uses the term, whether a politician, teacher or pastor, to define "social justice" for you. After a disbelieving stare, most will stumble on how "we" need to take care of the "disadvantaged" or some such group. Who decides who belongs in those groups and who decides who "we" are? The simple answer is that those in power would make those designations, thus enhancing their own power. However, God created individuals, not a group. Each person is special and He has a purpose for each. He tells us, as Christians, to fellowship together and that is important to one's growth but He has different callings on each one of us.

The word "social" is never found in the Bible. The word "justice" is used 28 times and three-fourths of those 28 times, it is coupled with "judgment" — God's judgment and His justice. The other times that it is used refer to the outcome of judgment and justice. Beware of those who entice you to their group mentality called "social justice." *Thus says the Lord: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, For My salvation is about to come, And My righteousness to be revealed..."* Isaiah 56:1

MILESTONES

Died 28 Jan – **Col. Rich Carlsen, USAF (Ret)** in Ephrata, Wash., of pneumonia following a fall. Rich was a Marine aviator in World War II, a "flying sergeant" (we had enlisted pilots then), flying the SBD Douglas Dauntless dive bomber. Their ability to dive straight down gave them pin-point accuracy in support of infantry units. After post-war down-sizing of the Marine Corps, Rich transferred to the air Force for the rest of his military career. He was a patriot and a good and generous friend.

14 Feb – **Sharon Strak**, of Ocean Springs, Miss., a fine and courageous Christian friend, after many years of struggling with a variety of severe physical problems. She lived with much pain, never complained, and was an inspiration to

all who knew her. I never once looked at her that she didn't smile.

22 Feb – **Kenneth Mathis**, age 80 of Dover, Tenn. He was a veteran of the Korean War and the father of my good friend Susan Hawkins, a park ranger at Fort Donelson National Military Park. Susan was of great assistance and encouragement during the research for my book, “Jack Hinson’s One-Man War.”

A FINAL WORD

Treasure and use each day as if it were your last, and never give up hope; God has a limitless supply of new beginnings, and He makes beautiful things out of broken pieces.

(Sources: AP-Associated Press; BBC-British Broadcasting Corp.; BP-Baptist Press; Fox (Fox News); FOF-Focus on the Family; FRC-Family Research Council; HC-History Channel; IMG-Israel My Glory; JP-Jerusalem Post; LAT-L.A. Times; NM NewsMax.com; NW-Newsweek; NYP-New York Post; NYT-New York Times; ONN-OneNewsNow; PWB-Pastors' Weekly Briefing; USAT-USA Today; VOM-Voice of Martyrs; W-World Magazine; WND-World Net Daily; and WT-Washington Times.)