

Watson News & Views 2016

December 2016



With each Nativity scene we see we are reminded of the miraculous event that occurred many years ago. May we all have the eyes to see the miracles that happen today, not only during this season but all year long.

Dinner in Ramallah

by Kathy Watson

Marston and I were blessed in November to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (Knights Templars). We were guided by Fr. Peter Vasko, O.F.M., who lives in Jerusalem. We were able to renew our baptismal vows (at Bethany Beyond the Jordan) and our wedding vows (in Cana of Galilee), in addition to seeing many other holy sites. Knights Templars have a long history in Israel, so we also visited Caesarea and Belvoir Fortress.

Fr. Vasko began the adventure by explaining that we were there in the Holy Land to be touched, healed or guided. All of the pilgrims became friends over the twelve days visiting sites by bus and traveling from Tel Aviv to Haifa, to Nazareth, to Tiberias, to Jericho, to Jerusalem, to Bethlehem, to Ramallah and finally to Petra in Jordan.

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem is the oldest Christian church in the world. This “status quo” church is jointly administered by the Franciscans, the Greeks and the Armenian Orthodox communities. This grotto, which lies under the Greek Orthodox altar, is the exact place of the birth of Jesus Christ. Marston celebrated his 81st birthday and was blessed at the grotto by Fr. Vasko.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is another “status quo” church located in the old city of Jerusalem. This church was built over the crucifixion of Jesus at Golgotha as well as the Tomb of Jesus where he resurrected. At the Church of the Nativity, we were able to touch where Jesus was born and at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where he was crucified. For me, these were the two most inspirational sites to visit as a Christian.

Among the many holy sites visited were Mount of Beatitudes, Church of the Anunciation in Nazareth, Mount

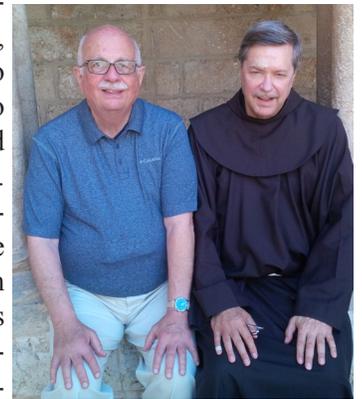
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New Brunswick & Nova Scotia 2016

by Marston Watson

An important wish on our “bucket list” was achieved this past July, when Kathy and I, along with our dear friends from Vermont (*David & Stephanie Hockensmith*), went on a 12-day vacation to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Canada. The memorable parts of this trip were a one-day tour of Cape Breton, three days in Halifax and our visit at historic Fort Louisbourg. This site was particularly memorable to Marston, as his 6th great-grandfather, Colonel Arthur Noble (1700-1747), fought with the English military in 1745 to defeat the French forces at this fort.

Nova Scotia is particularly beautiful, especially along its extensive coast. We enjoyed our favorite libations from the balcony of our Halifax hotel that faced the beautiful Atlantic sea. We marveled at the fraternal connection to our own colonial history, with the knowledge that thousands of our colonists immigrated to Nova Scotia in the seventeenth century. Marston has a great number of distant cousins in Nova Scotia.



Merry Christmas

Tabor, Cana of Galilee, Primacy of St. Peter, Capharnaum, and the Church of Heptapegon. At the Primacy of St. Peter, we had a beautiful service led by Fr. Vasko where we were each given a Jerusalem cross pin to wear as Pilgrims.

A Convent and Investiture was held for the Permanent Preceptory of the Holy Land. All of the pilgrims participated in one way or another. I served as Sword Bearer and Marston was one of the readers.

On day six we had the opportunity to share a meal with our student Waseem Wasaya and his family. Waseem attends the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center (ETVTC). With trepidation and excitement, Marston and I arrived to open arms from Waseem, his younger brothers Ramiz and Nadeem and younger sister Natalie, who are fraternal triplets. Their father Yousef and mother Wafa welcomed us into their home and served a delicious Arabic supper and our favorite tabbouleh salad. We talked of many things that night, which Yousef recorded the moment following presentation of gifts from our hosts. Natalie shared her drawings and Nadeem has hopes of a writing/journalism career. Ramiz is also a student at ETVTC, but a year behind Waseem. Oh, and did I tell you that the triplets share my birthday of February 18!

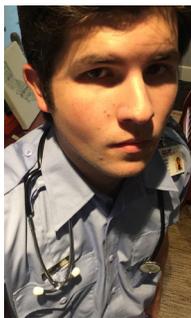


Family News

by Marston & Kathy Watson

Michael Amador (22)

Congratulations to grandson Michael, a licensed EMT, who begins his paramedic training at NCTI on January 10, according to daughter Karen (Watson) Amador. She indicated that the news of his admission to the school came as a Christmas present “wrapped up in a bow.” “It’s going to be the hardest thing he will have ever taken on, but I know he can do it,” said Karen. A huge plus is that NCTI is a subsidiary of American Medical Response (AMR), a well-known ambulance company. This school is a recruitment tool for AMR, and they can train their paramedics according to their own standards.



Sophia Amador (19)

Karen and Al’s daughter Sophia is in her second year as an honor student in pre-nursing at the University of Nevada, Reno. Her dedication to this chosen field was evident in her pursuit of a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) certificate during her summer break from the University. This certificate allows her to work in a hospital while pursuing her degree in nursing.



Haley Watson (16)

Erik and Jill’s daughter Haley was selected in November as one of twenty-seven swimmers in the country to the USA Synchronized Swim Team in 2017-18. Haley has worked hard (six days a week) for this honor since she was seven-years. Haley’s busy swim schedule, notwithstanding, has not distracted



her from her pursuit of excellence as an honor student in her third year of high school. Haley’s medal count for these past ten years is quite impressive.

Alexia Watson (14)

Lexie, as she prefers to be called, continues to match the academic achievements of her sister Haley as a high school freshman, while excelling in her volleyball pursuits. Lexie still hopes to find time as



an actress to participate in theater productions once again.

Xander Maniaci (16)

As a sophomore in high school, Xander just celebrated his milestone birthday (16 on 12/16/2016) and is building up his hour requirement for a drivers license. He enjoys Parkour (a training discipline using movement that developed from military obstacle course training which includes running, climbing, swinging, vaulting, jumping, rolling, quadrupedal movement, and other movements as deemed most suitable for the situation). He just finished working on the school play as a stagehand.



Volunteering with DAR

by Kathy Watson

A good share of my volunteer activity this year has been as Volunteer Information Specialist (VIS) Chair for the California State Society. I was appointed to head up a team of twelve volunteers who manage all the internet needs of the State Society and the 115 chapters. The team maintains members-only and public websites and assists the chapters with their chapter public and members-only websites. Social networking is included and new guidelines this year will enhance the review efforts to include chapter Facebook sites.



The goal is to have each chapter website and chapter Facebook page to sport the VIS Approved site graphic!

Happy New Year

