

# The 142 Express

May 2011

## Upcoming Events in 2011

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
May 2	Lodge Practice	Newton Lodge	7:00 PM
May 9	Lodge Practice	Newton Lodge	7:00 PM
May 11	Carry in Dinner	Newton Lodge	6:30 PM
May 11	Stated Meeting & Election	Newton Lodge	7:30 PM
May 23	Lodge Practice	Newton Lodge	7:00 PM
May 30	Unity Council	Scottish Rite	7:00 PM
June 4	Lodge Picnic	Newton Outlet Mall	11:00 AM
June 6	Lodge Practice	Newton Lodge	7:00 PM
June 13	Lodge Practice	Newton Lodge	7:00 PM
June 8	Carry in Dinner	Newton Lodge	6:30 PM
June 8	Stated Meeting	Newton Lodge	7:30 PM
June 20	Lodge Practice	Newton Lodge	7:00 PM
June 30- July 4	Fireworks Sales	Newton Outlet Mall	

## Contact Information:

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## **Urgent Announcement:**

Bill Hickerson will be resigning his position as lodge secretary at the end of April 2011. In order to ensure a continuum in the execution of his duties Newton Masonic Lodge #142 will be holding an election for the position of Lodge Secretary during the May 11, 2011 stated meeting.

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## **From the Chaplain's Desk**

By Cory Llamas

*It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, and many nations shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide for strong nations far away; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken. For all the peoples walk each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever.*

-Micah 4:1-5

We live, today, in a world of contradictions; a world that is a far cry from the description in the preceding scripture. In our own nation, gas prices continue to soar as the income levels of our struggling impoverished remain the same. Abroad, people are struggling to recover their means for shelter as they weigh the risks of nuclear fallout in their home towns. Finally, nobles are getting married, but have made plans to forgo the lavish accoutrements of a traditional royal lifestyle.

Indeed, it is hard to imagine that in a world as contrived as ours, that any force could align all the different people toward the coalescent aim of peace. This was the world of the prophet Micah. When the Hebrews were released from captivity in Babylon they formed two distinct regions in Israel. Samaria in the North and Judah in the South.

During the Persian empire, rebuilding began on the ruins of Solomon's Temple. At this time, messages were sent from Samaria in the North requesting permission to assist in the rebuilding of the Temple. However, due to the fact that Jerusalem was in Judah and was the chosen sight for the original Temple and worship of God, they were viewed as heretics and barred from assisting in the rebuilding effort. Even though they shared common ancestors, and their lineages could all be traced to ancestors in Jerusalem, they had chosen not to return to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity. To make matters worse, since Samaria had been void of a temple to worship God in, they had resorted to worshiping their local pagan deities.

These atrocities must have weighed heavily upon the populace of Jerusalem, for it was their relatives who were committing sins against God. Much like the families in Germany during the cold war, Israel was divided into North and South by a wall of sin,

idolatry and disloyalty to God. This was not merely a wall dividing geography, but families, and friends alike. The prophet Micah's message is not one of condemnation to the Samaritans, but one of relief. In Micah's vision, swords become plowshares and spears become pruning hooks. Indeed, this is a pronouncement of hope, because plowshares and pruning hooks are tools for the production of food and sustenance, and not of destruction or desolation.

The prophet Micah clearly illustrates that the will of God is not war, but rather that of love. For you see, hate breeds atrocities and destruction even under the most noble of intentions. But, love can move past atrocities and begin to heal even the deepest and most heavily scarred wounds.

While it is true that we live in a world where stresses are heaped upon us by opposing tensions that seem to endlessly make our situations worse. It is also true that forgiveness and peace are readily available to those who would seek first the kingdom of God in all that they do. For even Jesus who was born of the tribe of Judah in the geographical borders of Judah, was able to find one "Good Samaritan."