

St. Andrew's (JKP) Monthly Newsletter  
*February, 2011*

Edification: I'll tell you what; if I was still a hysterical dispensationalist I'd be really hysterical and dispensational right now. With all the floods, droughts, wars and rumors of wars, and with the unprecedented upheaval in the Middle East I'd be searching the daily Israeli news for the discovery of the much anticipated red heifer, fully expecting to find that the temple has been secretly rebuilt and will have a grand reopening this July 4<sup>th</sup> with fireworks (after all, prophecy is all about us, right?). Truly though the upheaval in the Middle East is of biblical proportions. What started out as a small and quickly squashed uprising in Iran a couple years ago has spread like the sirocco across the deserts of Arabia. Many in our own State Controlled Media would like to fix the genesis of this movement in the 2009 Cairo speech of our own Dear Leader, President Obama (now they're thrilled to use his entire, Muslim sounding name). But is it really that simple, and stupid? Have you read or heard that speech? Here's a sampling; *"Now, let me be clear; Platitude platitude platitude me. I platitude platitude platitude myself."* You get the idea. No real there-there. It cannot be denied though. A true ground-swell is taking place all across the Middle East. But what is the substance, the essential nature of this ground swell? Is this "democracy" bursting forth from worn out old dictatorships? Is this a great Islamic uprising, by which all vestiges of Western Civilization are given the scimitar once and for all? We've now been made aware of the "Muslim Brotherhood". It's an old and well organized sect of devout, militant Muslims. Will they be the force that unites the historically divided region under one banner - Shariah Law for all? What exactly is the driving force behind this thing, and what will be the eventual outcome?

Events/Information: We'll be meeting for bible study on 02/23/11 at 7:00 p.m. at the meeting house (a.k.a. "Church" for the uninitiated...).

*"If I cannot give bountifully, yet will I give freely."* — ARTHUR WARWICK

Encourage: One of the many promises encompassed in the gospel is found in Isaiah 11:9 where we read: *"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea."* The gospel will go out and cover the earth. That's a promise. It is not promised however that its going will be easy or pleasant. Martin Luther once remarked that the way of God through man's soul is as a tempest. So it is with the spread of the gospel throughout the earth. It goes out as a tempest and the earth is filled. Whatever may be the eventual outcome in the Middle East, be it some form of democracy, or another Iranian style theocracy it should not, in St. Paul's famous words, move us (Acts 20:24).

All that happens in the extraordinary, as well as ordinary outworking of God's Providence is ordained to this end - that the knowledge of the LORD in the gospel will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. So it is necessary to have upheaval in the Middle East right now; it is necessary to have Barack Obama as president at this time; and it is necessary for a small band of families under the banner of the ancient historic orthodox Christian faith to exist in a spiritual wasteland as an outpost of sanity and sobriety. And all of this is the ongoing fulfillment of that promise. Whether it's water covering the sea or sand covering the desert the promise advances. The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD. Promises are way better than platitudes!