

May, 2004
Newsletter 7

Hello everybody,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and happy. It's hard to believe we're almost halfway through 2004.

We have had some busy months. I have been busy doing readings and designing and making handbags and totes for my daughter, Christina's company, Snackee limited. Her first shipment of shirts will be out this week. She and her partner, Tate Bradford, call their company "clothing with a conscience" because ten percent of every sale goes to a different charity. Their first charity is Food On Foot, which feeds the working poor and homeless in Hollywood and Venice. It's a fabulous effort that not only feeds people but also helps them get on their feet. They work for food certificates and gradually work their way up to their own apartment and a "real" job. We have volunteered for FOF on and off for about 5 years. For more information, visit their website, FoodOnFoot.org. I'll be putting photos of Chrissy's shirts on the website as soon as I can.

Christina's boyfriend, Shane, is also an entrepreneur. His line of BBQ spice blends is also newly on the market. Shane is from Mississippi and he's a fabulous cook. Every Thanksgiving he deep-fries a couple of turkeys so everybody goes to his place, of course. Our mamas didn't raise no fools. His spice is called "Redneck Shakes". If any of you want the very best BBQ dry rub blend, let me know.

Our Molly has turned into a delicate, beautiful Siamese princess who particularly enjoys her long, graceful tail. Molly has some very endearing ways. When she wakes up from a nap, she yawns, pads to me, sweetly mews and raises her front paws up to me to pick her up for a cuddle. She also has Gandhi's pride about being Siamese. "But I am Siamese, you know!" she insists. Scungi is almost twice as big as she and is gorgeous with a very thick, fluffy tail. He's all boy and very sweet. Of all their toys, they like to play with little balls of paper the best. Go figure. You can find their latest photos, plus some photos of others in our client family, on the website in the "client family" folder. Anyone who wants a photo of their pet immortalized on our site should just email or mail me a photo labeled with your name and your pet's name.

"The important thing is not that we can live on hope alone, but that life is not worth living without it."

Harvey Milk

I'm going to devote space this time to my teacher Dr. Errico's comments on Mel Gibson's movie, "The Passion of the Christ". Dr. Rocco Errico was Dr. Lamsa's protégé and has continued his work of teaching the Aramaic Bible for the past 40 years. I refused

to see this movie, but Dr. Errico saw it. I guess he has a stronger stomach than I. I'm not surprised that he had the same problems with it as I did. He posted this message on the Noorah Foundation website.

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Ever since this motion picture was released, I have been flooded with phone calls, letters, e-mails and inquiries at my lectures wanting to know what I think of the film. First, I need to say that I did not like the film because it was too bloody and cruel for me. This is my opinion. Many who have seen the film were deeply moved by it. I know that the crucifixion was bloody and definitely a horrendous death. But it was so overdone that it failed to evoke any empathy out of me. By contrast, I was deeply moved when I saw the crucifixion scene in the motion picture *THE ROBE*.

Now, aside from my personal opinion, here is my assessment of some of the things in the film in regard to the New Testament from the Aramaic perspective.

1. The Aramaic language was difficult to understand because it had a muffled sound. The pronunciation was more Hebrew than Aramaic. In the garden of Gethsemene, Jesus did not call God "Adonai." This is Hebrew and not Aramaic. He would have said "Mariah" instead of "Adonai." But I am grateful that Aramaic has now come to the forefront and that people are realizing this was the tongue in which Jesus taught his gospel of the kingdom of God. He explained many spiritual matters to his disciples in this language and healed people using Aramaic expressions and idioms.

2. Even though the Aramaic language was used, it was not translated correctly. This is evidenced by Jesus' words on the cross. The Aramaic text does not say, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" His words were not a question but a declaration: "My God, my God, for this I was spared! [or "This was my destiny]. The commentary *ARAMAIC LIGHT ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW* goes into greater detail on the meaning of Jesus' declaration. (Interestingly, the recent TV movie *JUDAS* portrayed these words correctly.)

3. Almost the entire trial, beatings and crucifixion scenes are based on the Roman Catholic Stations of the Cross. This means the addition of Veronica wiping Jesus' face, his mother helping him out, and many other add-ons. The thieves should have been completely bloody also and would have been nailed just like Jesus. This was not shown. Most criminals were scourged before crucifixion so that they would die as quickly as possible on the cross.

4. The extreme murderous portrayal of the Jewish Sanhedrin was despicable and exaggerated. Joseph Caiaphas, the high priest, was afraid that Jesus would cause an uprising, so he brought some of the Sanhedrin together and said that it would be better for one man to die and not all the people. Many also did accuse Jesus of blasphemy, but the Romans could not put Jesus to death on that account. It had to be for political treason and not for something religious. The never-ending mistreatment by some of the Roman

soldiers and a mob of Jewish spectators was exaggerated. Yes, it is likely that some of the Roman soldiers did mistreat Jesus and one or two of them made fun of him by placing a crown of thorns on his head. And there were some religious extremists who did spit on Jesus and wanted him crucified. But as we know from examples like Joan of Arc and the Salem witch trials to modern-day terrorism, most religions have extremists who commit atrocities in the name of their religion.

5. There were so many things that the film portrayed that never happened at all. I understand that it is a film. But to use young boys as tormentors of Judas' shame and pain was too much. The androgynous devil was interesting but still looked too feminine, which to me vilifies women. The crow poking out the eyes of one of the criminals was, again, too much! There is much more, but I am going to stop here with the negatives.

6. I enjoyed the flashbacks to some of Jesus' teaching. It didn't last but a minute or two. I would have liked to have seen more of Jesus' teachings, because this is the reason why he went to the cross. His teaching was a threat and dangerous to all systems both political and religious. And his teaching is still that way today.

Blessings to everyone,

Dr. Rocco A. Errico

“Every man is free to rise as far as he’s able or willing but the degree to which he thinks determines the degree to which he’ll rise.”

Ayn Rand

Here is how June is shaping up:

June 11 – I will be on the radio between the hours of 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. on KRUZ (103.3 FM) Morning Wake Up show with Bill Peso and Bonnie Campbell.

June 11 – I will be doing readings at Spirit’s Path, 506 State St., Santa Barbara (805-962-2023) from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.

June 12 – I will be giving readings and lecturing at Sacred Productions Wisdom Festival in Santa Barbara at Earl Warren Fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

June 13 – I will be giving readings and lecturing at Sacred Productions Wisdom Festival in Ventura from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Ventura Beach Resort. For more info on either of these festivals, visit www.PsychicFairs.net
If you would like free passes to either festival, e-mail me or call me at 818-762-8001.

On June 27, I will reading at Rusty's Discount Pet Center, 11672 Ventura Blvd, Studio City 818-769-9085 for their annual Anniversary Bash. This is the best pet store in the world and I love the dear folks who run it. Come on and say "Hi" to Rusty, the gorgeous collie, and enjoy the food, games, fabu prize giveaway, and take advantage of the 15-75% off everything sale! See you there!

"Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God." –Teilhard de Chadin

Animal Blessing

Blessed are you, Lord God, Maker of all living creatures, ourselves and our animal lbrothers and sisters.

We now ask you to bless our brother/sister _____.

By the power of your love, enable him/her to live according to your plan,

In peace and good health all the days of his/her life.

Thank you.

Prayer for a sick animal

Heavenly Father, you created all things and made us stewards of the animals.

If it is your will and his/her highest good, restore _____ to health and strength or gently bring him/her home to you and comfort those he/she leaves behind.

Thank you.

Until next time, blessings to all!

Patricia