

# LOGOSOPHIA

A Pilgrim's Journal  
of Life, Love & Literature



Issue #15  
Summer 2023



## God & Country: An Issue of Patriotism



Greetings, fellow pilgrims!

Welcome to our fifteenth issue of LogoSophia Magazine, focused on Patriotism. Though our staff is all American, the ideas within are largely international or historical in nature. As per usual, within this issue you will find poetry, a hymn, a new author interview, and more!

Please enjoy, and let us know what you think.

Happy Summer!

Sarah Levesque

Editor in Chief

## WANTED

- Readers & listeners of any faith to interact respectfully with writers and other readers through book/media suggestions and letters to the editor, as well as comments on LogoSophiaMag.com and social media
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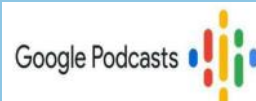
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# In This Issue...

Page 4	Verse, Prayer & Letters to the Editor
6	Photo Contest Entries
9	We Hold These Truths - Sarah Levesque
11	Liberty's Kids: The Honor of Patriotism - Amanda Pizzolatto
12	Knights of Adonai Part 4: Lord Talen Has A Need - Joshua David Ling
14	Holy Hero: Samuel Adams - Ian Wilson
16	The Liberty Tree - Amanda Pizzolatto
18	Controversy Corner - Various
21	Hymn: I Vow To Thee My Country - Sir Cecil Spring Rice & Gustav Holst
23	Musical Musings - Sarah Levesque
24	Scripture Search
26	One Eye Laughing, A Review - T.K. Wilson
27	Author Interview with Jim Sano
32	Book/Media Suggestions - Various
34	Cosmic Patriotism: On G.K. Chesterton & the American Identity - Caroline Liberatore
36	May The Rain Come, A Review - T.K. Wilson
37	Bible Trivia
50	Next Issue

*Happy  
Summer!*



## **Letters to the Editor & Others**

This is where we will be putting anything you send in:  
letters to the editor, notes to authors, questions,  
agreements and disagreements...  
we can't wait to see what you have to say!  
Just be sure to tell us what  
article you're responding to!

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## **Bible Verse**

Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are  
Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

(Mark 12:17)



## **A Prayer of For The Right Kind of Patriotism**

Father,

I pray that you might give Your people the right kind of patriotism.

Give us the kind that loves our country,  
but can still see its faults.

Give us the desire not to think our country perfect,  
but to work to make it better.

Let us look to You to understand what is true and right,  
and let us work for those principles.

But let us not work as those who are hostile,  
but as those who are helping something we love,  
so that we might make this country a  
better place to live for all the people in it.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen

<https://thedailyprayerblog.blogspot.com/2017/07/patriotism.html>



## Summer Photo Contest Entries



ABish Photography, NH  
Instagram @abishphotography



By Abigail Falanga, NM



## Summer Photo Contest Entries

CONTEST  
WINNER



By Amanda Pizzolatto, CO



By Amanda Pizzolatto, CO





**CALLING  
ALL  
PHOTOGRAPHERS**



We are holding a contest for the best picture  
that encapsulates

**AUTUMN**

The winning entry will be put on the  
Table of Contents page of our Spring issue.

Email your entry to  
[Editors.LogoSophia@gmail.com](mailto:Editors.LogoSophia@gmail.com)  
by September 14th - subject "Autumn 2023 Photo Contest"



# We Hold These Truths

By Sarah Levesque

## What is Patriotism?

If one of my fourth graders asked me this question, I would reply, "Love for your country. But not just any sort of love—wanting the best for it and being willing to do what it takes to help it." Over the last few centuries, self-sacrificing love of the country we call America has prompted countless men and women to a plethora of activities, from debating ideals and creating policy, to writing poetry and songs of praise, to fighting to protect the land and her ideals, even to the death.

Let's go back to the beginning of this country, to why it was founded. As we know, pilgrims arrived seeking freedom from religious oppression. They trusted that God would help them in this endeavor, and He did. Many who followed them came for similar reasons, others for adventure, still others for self-gain. And so the country grew. Colonies were formed, taxes were levied, policies and laws were enacted, battles were fought, choices good and bad were made, action was taken to the good of some and detriment of others; in short, life went on. And as the people's roots grew deeper, so did their patriotism.

Now let's skip ahead to the time when taxes were becoming a burden, when representation was ignored, when people were restless as they saw the rule of England as counterproductive to their ideals and representatives gathered to discuss what course of action to take. It is interesting to note that those who were called "Rebels" by the Loyalists called themselves "Patriots," not seeing their country as the British Empire as did the Loyalists (who they called Tories after a British political party), but rather seeing their country as a section of their own continent, and showing their fierce love for it.

As some turned their love of country toward freeing it from British rule by force, many leaders of these Patriots—those we now call the Founding Fathers—turned their love of country toward capturing the ideals of the country. These ideals they encapsulated into what would become the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence:

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,  
that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,  
that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

From this point on, the country not only meant the land, but these unifying ideals: equality, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. What these ideals entail has been debated and taken in various ways down through the decades, but the ideals remain. As with any historical document, though, we should read these words in context—the immediate context of the rest of the Declaration of Independence, the greater context of the other founding documents, such as the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the United States of America, and perhaps even the further context of the other writings of the Founding Fathers—the Federalist Papers, letters between leaders and their family and friends, and other documents of the time—which threads, taken as a whole, make a fabric strong enough to withstand a good deal.

Thus, I urge you, read these documents. Discover what the Founding Fathers meant by these words. Contemplate the importance of each of the ideas contained within them. Wrestle with the ideals set forth, and those added later (such as the Constitutional Amendments). Compare these foundational ideals with those that seem prevalent today: how are they the same, where do they differ? And decide for yourself what you will hold on to, what you will stand by, what you will defend, what will benefit from your self-sacrificing love of country, your patriotism.





## Liberty's Kids: The Honor of Patriotism

By Amanda Pizzolatto

While Moses and Henri both want America to become a free country in the show *Liberty's Kids*, it is James who not only is a hardcore fan of the notion, but would be considered the best embodiment of the American spirit. According to Sarah, he's brash, reckless, and hot-headed, but throughout the series, not only does she—and the audience—get to know him better, but he also matures. That recklessness is still there, but he starts acting with more wisdom. He argues with Sarah over the whole Revolution, since Sarah is the British representative and James is decidedly loyal to the American way of thinking.

Since James is an apprentice to Benjamin Franklin, he gets to hear a lot of the talk surrounding the colonies' frustrations with the British, and that the Tea Act of 1773 was the straw that broke the camel's back. Throughout the show, his goal remains the same: getting the stories of the soldiers out to the world and keeping the fire burning. Being a reporter, he gets to be present for a lot of the big moments that lead up to and during the Revolutionary War. He doesn't participate in the fighting, but gets very close to it. The soldiers try to protect him, as well as Sarah and Henri if they are present, so that the story of the battle can be put into Franklin's newspaper. Several times, James gets to know several of the soldiers well, and he mourns those who die. He even sees some of the cruelties unleashed in war, but through it all, he remains steadfast and loyal in his belief that the Americans are right.

James has a deep attachment to Franklin, who took him in after his parents died, to his friends, and to the land he calls home. He even cares for Sarah, even though the two got off to a rocky start. They rubbed off on each other, helping each other mature and fine-tune their beliefs. While James never lost his loyalty to the American cause, Sarah eventually came around. He helped her to understand the values of what the Americans were fighting for, why they were fighting for them, and that they were right. The British were overstepping their boundaries, and the Americans wanted a country that wouldn't do that. Thus, they fought the British and laid claim to the beginning of a new country. And James couldn't be happier to call the new country his home.



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## **The Knights of Adonai**

### **Part 4: Lord Talen Has A Need**

By Joshua David Ling

A few weeks later, the knights had grown closer,  
But few more than the three  
Who came to Hannaniah's Aid  
When he lost his rationality.

Leopold and Hannaniah  
Were sparring in the yard.  
And many laughed and cheered as they  
Would attack and guard.  
Arturs was their referee,  
Since his own legs barely worked.  
Owain watched them with joy  
And with a smiling smirk.

A monk named Christopher came to Owain,  
And Owain gratefully chimed

Owain: "I wish that life could be this way  
All of our living time."

Christopher: "Brother, Lord Talen sends for aid.  
He's transferring some of his wealth."

Owain's smile twisted to agitation.

Owain: "Tell him to find someone else!  
Our cause is not like the other orders!"



**Christopher: “He knows that, Father Sir.  
But he insisted that I persuade you.”**

**Owain’s anger rose a bit more.  
But before he could let his tongue loose  
Arturs had hobbled over.**

**Arturs: “Brother Owain, what is it-  
That seems to have you so bothered?”**

**Owain: “Brother Arturs, Of course-  
A local tyrant has me flustered.  
He takes in money by low and sundry means,  
Then expects the Church to fight,  
To provide knights and protect him  
Though he only brings crime and plight.”**

**Arturs: “I will gladly take care of this  
Along with my brothers.  
You need not worry, my friend.  
Spare me any druthers.”**

**Owain went to protest,  
But Arturs pulled him close,  
And gave Owain a wink-  
While tapping the side of his nose.**

**Arturs: “Leopold, Hannaniah!  
To my side, we ride!”**

**And Hannaniah and Leopold followed  
With swagger in their stride.**



# HOLY

## Samuel Adams

By Ian Wilson

# HEROES

Samuel Adams was quite possibly the most important of all the Founding Fathers of the American Revolution, yet he is possibly the least remembered of all of them. A deeply religious man, Adams framed the Revolution in Biblical terms, and added religious fervor to the push for independence.

Samuel Adams was born in 1722, the son of Deacon Adams, a brewer of Puritan heritage, a faith which Samuel continued to follow. Due to a lack of currency in the 1730s, the Massachusetts Bay Colony experienced a severe depression. To combat the economic freefall, Deacon Adams, among others, founded the Land Bank, which issued paper banknotes to poor farmers, which they used to purchase goods from Boston merchants.

Unfortunately, the British Government took a dim view of the elder Adams' entrepreneurial spirit, and outlawed the Land Bank and its currency. The residents of Boston now owed silver and gold. The Adams family was bankrupt. This experience sowed the seeds of revolution in the heart of young Samuel Adams, and the older he got, the more he distrusted the British Government.

Samuel Adams took a keen interest in the political scene of Boston and became a member of the Popular Party, which opposed the aristocratic, loyalist Court Party that had caused his family so much trouble. Throughout the 1760s, Adams led many popular protests against what he viewed were impositions by Parliament, and not only that, but transgressions against Divine law. One might understand how he may have developed this view through a reading of the Westminster Larger Catechism.

In 1768, after several mass protests in the Boston area, two thousand British Regular troops landed on the Long Wharf in Boston, supposedly to keep the peace. Adams viewed this as yet another transgression by Parliament. He and his fellow Sons of Liberty published many accounts of the brutality of British troops to win popular support.

For several years, Adams kept alive the memory of the violence done during the Boston Massacre and other similar events, even after many Bostonians lost interest. This, however, did not deter the British Parliament from passing more taxes on the Colonies. Samuel Adams continued to oppose British taxes on the Colonies, writing newspaper articles and pamphlets, and even going as far as to organize the Boston Tea Party.



# HOLY

## Samuel Adams

By Ian Wilson

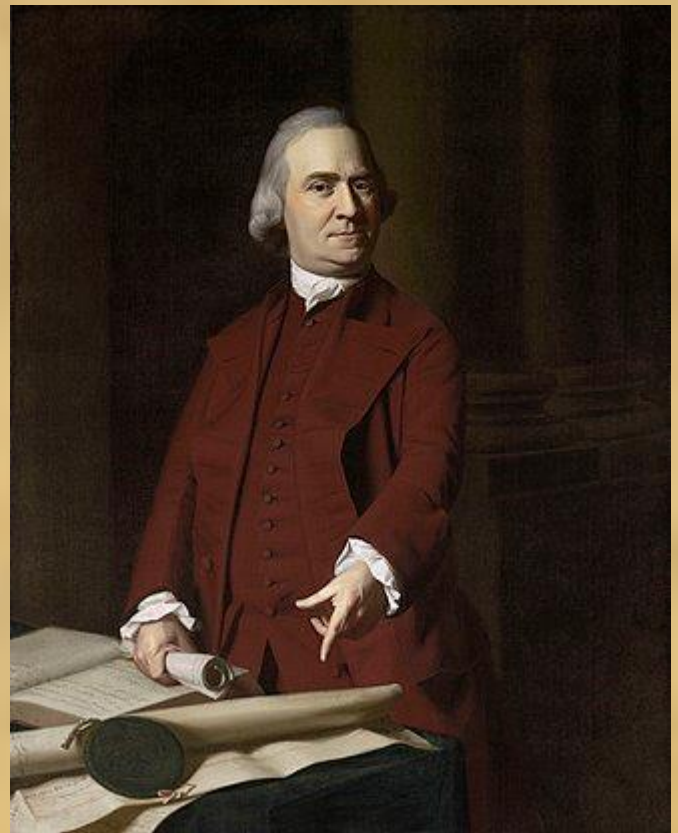
# HEROES

The British, having had their fill of Adams' instigations, dispatched troops to Lexington to arrest him and his compatriot, John Hancock, in 1775. However, colonial spies caught wind of this and armed militiamen confronted the British Regulars on Lexington Common, resulting in the battles of Lexington and Concord.

In 1776, Adams signed the Declaration of Independence, which birthed a new nation, founded on the principle of liberty, which Adams considered a gift from God - not only that, but a right.

Throughout the Revolutionary War, Samuel Adams fanned the flame of freedom in the new nation with his fiery rhetoric, undeterred by setbacks, fearing only God. When the United States of America had won her independence, he was a member of the first Continental Congress, and drafted the Articles of Confederation, a precursor to the Constitution.

Samuel Adams later returned to his native Boston, where he served as President of the Massachusetts Senate, and Lieutenant Governor under John Hancock, from whom he eventually took over when he died in office. Adams himself died at the ripe old age of 81, having served his nation well, with a clear conscience before God and his fellow man.





# The Liberty Tree

By Amanda Pizzolatto

Plant the seed in the new world, boys  
The seed of freedom and liberty  
Water it and protect it well  
Watch it grow into a great big tree

It's a great big tree for the world to see  
A symbol of the brave and free  
And the bells will ring from sea to sea  
Ringin' with the sound, the sound of liberty

Tend to the little sapling, boys  
Make some room and clear the tea  
Grab your guns for we will fight  
Send those British back across the sea

It's a great big tree for the world to see  
A symbol of the brave and free  
And the bells will ring from sea to sea  
Ringin' with the sound, the sound of liberty

Sign the Declaration, boys  
Put an end to this tyranny  
Make a list of our God-given rights  
And raise them high for all to see

It's a great big tree for the world to see  
A symbol of the brave and free  
And the bells will ring from sea to sea  
Ringin' with the sound, the sound of liberty



Keep your guns nearby, boys  
We must keep fighting for liberty  
And while we are at it  
Let's put an end to slavery

It's a great big tree for the world to see  
A symbol of the brave and free  
And the bells will ring from sea to sea  
Ringin' with the sound, the sound of liberty

Plant the poppies at the base, boys  
Plant them all around the liberty tree  
One for each brother who has fallen  
Losing their lives in the line of duty

It's a great big tree for the world to see  
A symbol of the brave and free  
And the bells will ring from sea to sea  
Ringin' with the sound, the sound of liberty

It's time to put your guns up, boys  
Let your sons handle the next century  
But teach your grandchildren all they need  
To keep the flame burning, the love of liberty

It's a great big tree for the world to see  
A symbol of the brave and free  
And the bells will ring from sea to sea  
Ringin' with the sound, the sound of liberty



LIBERTY TREE, 1774.

CORNER OF ESSEX AND ORANGE STREETS.

The world should never forget the spot where once stood Liberty Tree, so famous in your annals.—*La Fayette in Boston.*



## **Writers & Artists Wanted!**

**LogoSophia Magazine is looking for  
more contributors for**

- the blog - magazine articles & artwork -**
- Controversy Corner - graphic design**

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# CONTROVERSY CORNER

What does your denomination believe about pacifism?

## What is Controversy Corner?

Controversy Corner is the section of LogoSophia Magazine where people of different faith traditions discuss controversial topics in a succinct manner.

If you would like to submit a topic for discussion, please let us know!

Don't see your denomination represented? Help us fix that! We're always looking for new writers!

Disagree with the representative of your denomination? Write in and tell us why in a respectful manner, and we'll publish it in our next magazine under "Letters to the Editor & Comments"!

For these and any other questions, comments or suggestions, email us at [Editors.LogoSophia@gmail.com](mailto:Editors.LogoSophia@gmail.com).

## Confessional Lutheran: Jordan Christensen aka J.C. Ellis

The Lutheran Church has never forbid the use of self-defense. Self-defense though must be in accordance with Christlike love for Christ teaches us to love even our enemies. Additionally, the Church has traditionally taught not to use violence against those who persecute us for our faith.

# CONTROVERSY CORNER

What does your denomination believe about pacifism?

## **Presbyterian Church Independent: Joshua David Ling**

Pacifism is largely misunderstood by those who practice it as being Christ-like to others. Christ himself had violent outbursts at the right time, yet he held his true power back in every instance and was not overcome by evil passions. Unfortunately, pacifism fails to take into account that in the perfect state in the Garden of Eden, Adam's proper response to sin being introduced to his wife would be to obliterate the snake as Jesus did when he crushed Satan's head on the cross, and as he's doing so again and again through the Church, his Bride. Evil's purpose is to be crushed violently, and one cannot do that when practicing pacifism.

## **Roman Catholic: Sarah Levesque**

The Catholic Church teaches that anger and hatred against other people are sins against charity, and she strongly advocates for peace and action that leads to peace, while not denying that governments have the right and duty to protect their citizens through violent conflict if all other means have been exhausted. The Catholic Church gives provisions as to how a violent conflict ought to be conducted (see the Doctrine of Just War, covered in the Controversy Corner section of our Winter 2021 issue), and declares that those who are opposed to fighting itself ought to help with the community in other ways as they find fit.

For more information, see this webpage which contains quotations of the various pertinent paragraphs of The Catechism of the Catholic Church:

[usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/excerpts-from-catechism-of-the-catholic-church-safeguarding-peace-1997](https://usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/excerpts-from-catechism-of-the-catholic-church-safeguarding-peace-1997)



# CONTROVERSY CORNER

What does your denomination believe about pacifism?

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

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for Controversy Corner!

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your denomination's stance?

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who can?



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## I VOW TO THEE MY COUNTRY

THAXTED. (7 6, 7 6, 7 6, D.)

*In moderate time. Unison.*

GUSTAV HOLST.

1 I vow to thee, my coun - try— all earth-ly things a - bove—  
 2. And there's a - no - ther coun - try, I've heard of long a - go—

En - tire and whole and per - fect, the ser-vice of my love,  
 Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know—

The love that asks no ques-tion : the love that stands the test,  
 We may not count her arm - ies : we may not see her King—

That lays up-on the al - tar the dear-est and the best :  
 Her fort-ress is a faith-ful heart, her pride is suff - er - ing—

The love that nev - er fal - ters, the love that pays the price,  
And soul by soul and silent-ly her shin-ing bounds in - crease,

The love that makes un - daunt-ed the fi - nal sac - ri - fice.  
And her ways are ways of gentle-ness and all her paths are peace.

(Copyright, 1921, in U.S.A. by Goodwin & Tubb Ltd.)

*The Two Fatherlands.*

*Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, 1859-1918.*

I VOW to thee, my country—all earthly things above—  
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love,  
The love that asks no question : the love that stands the test,  
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best :  
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,  
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

2. And there's another country, I've heard of long ago—  
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know—  
We may not count her armies : we may not see her King—  
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering—  
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,  
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.



**By Sarah Levesque**



**I Vow To Thee My Country  
(or The Two Fatherlands)**

When I first heard this song, I was struck by how it seemed to capture the patriotic spirit and the spirit of the Christian. We want to uphold our own country and its ideals, to protect it and guide it to truth and justice. There are many who have made that “final sacrifice” mentioned in the last line of the first verse, and we must remember them and what they have done for us, and be ready to lay down our lives for the same if necessary.

But as the second verse says, “There is another country” - Heaven, to which we owe an even greater allegiance. We add to this country not by wars and moving boundaries, but by staying true to her King and winning people over “soul by soul and silently” by His grace.

The song was originally written as a poem around 1910 by Sir Cecil Spring Rice, who asked composer Gustav Holst to put it to music. Holst was relieved to discover that it fit the Jupiter theme of his work *The Planets* and thus it continues to be sung, though the tune has come to be called “Thaxted” after Holst’s hometown. The hymn is a favorite in Britain, where it is used in many official ceremonies.



# EPIC POETRY IS ALIVE!

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## Scripture Search

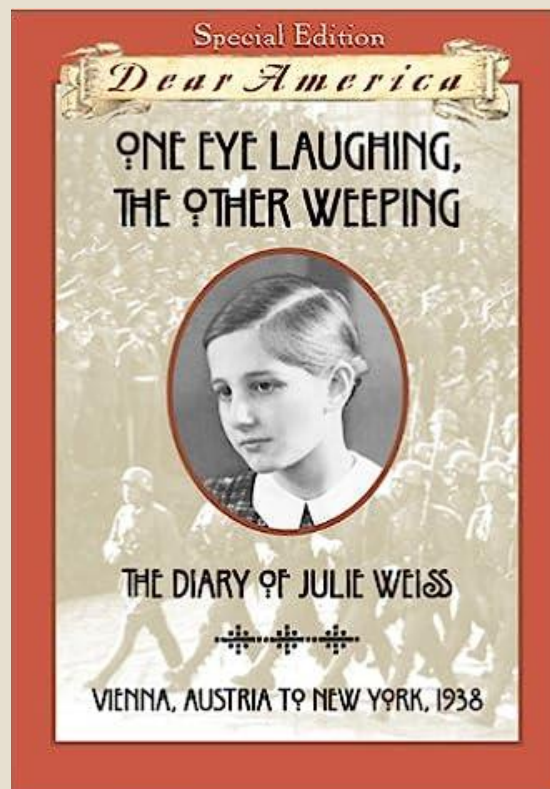
1. First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,
  2. Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.
  3. Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."
  4. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...
- A. 1 Timothy 2:1-3
  - B. Romans 13:1
  - C. Mark 12:17
  - D. Philippians 3:20



## A Review by J.K. Wilson

From the collection of one of my favorite childhood book series, Dear America, comes one of the most honestly horrific children's books I have ever read: *One Eye Laughing, The Other Weeping: The Diary of Julie Weiss*. The fictional Julie lives in Vienna, Austria, with her parents and older brother just as Hitler begins his hideous march across Europe. Julie's family are wealthy and Jewish, two things that make these innocents targets of the Nazi's ire. Because Julie is blonde and green-eyed, people believe that she is Aryan, but she is not immune to the Nazis' hate. In the first part of the book, we read of the indignities, and then outright cruelties, suffered by the Jews. Julie's father gives up his chance to go to America, but Julie escapes using a precious ticket.

In America, Julie is adopted by her aunt and uncle in New York. Julie suffers from what is clearly PTSD, but overcomes it by taking up acting, guided by her aunt, who is a successful actress.



This book portrays with startling clarity the evil of Nazism, and because of this disturbing content, this book should not be read by children under the age of 15. The traditional range for Dear America is usually grades 3-7, but the graphic and disturbing nature of this particular novel merits an older age rating. Dear America has at least three other books about World War II; I would recommend those for readers younger than 15. Also, Julie's family isn't at all religious, she even questions the existence of God in the face of all the things she encounters.

It's not all bad, however. Julie's journey begins with fear and hate, but ends with courage and hope. Her story is the story of real-life people who escaped from places of hate and fear to America, the place of hope. These people formed the basis of America, molding it into the country it is today. Find it in your local library or any online bookstore.

# Author Interview With...

## JIM SANO



Hello! Tell us a little about yourself.

I had a 30 something year career, raised a beautiful family. Along the way, I think my faith was always, there, was always woven into my life, but I had a desire to know more about it. So I started spending more time trying to learn more about the church, about my faith. I went to St. John Seminary, which had a program on Catholicism that was a great program, started listening *Catholic Answers*, reading books and everything, and as you start to add to your appreciation for what it's all about, you

come to realize the church isn't a manmade institution; it's the body of Christ and it's a trusted pillar of truth. And I felt that I could do more to share the faith in a way that I think could reach people maybe in a different way.

So I had this idea about following Jesus's model. He taught wisdom and truth and the faith through very intriguing stories and relatable characters. And what better model than that? And this story started to percolate, so I started researching over probably a 10 or 15 year period really wanting to know the faith and weave it into a story. I think some people find that faith is separate like 'that's another hobby that you have, but I'm not gonna have'. So I wanted to write a story where faith was a key component. If people knew this, they would be so drawn to it. I had a lot of classes on psychology and you see a lot of the roadblocks people have in their lives getting over things that kind of block them from living life fully as God intended. So those are two main components I wanted to weave into my story.

You know, I just heard about agonizing over sentences and everything, and somehow the Holy Spirit just took over and it was the most fun I had had doing almost anything in my life. It was just quite a process of writing that story and it's been a blessing ever since.

Can you tell us about your books?

Sure! So the first book is called *The Father's Son*, and the title is very telling in terms of what the real message is at the end. It's about a young man had a trauma as a child and it was a pretty big trauma and a lot of people deal with that kind of thing but they don't usually deal with it; they usually avoid the pain of whatever they had to go with. So a lot of people either go into drugs and alcohol or a lot of other things to avoid dealing with it. The main character David Kelly's way of doing it was to excel, right? So he wanted to really find his purpose through his achievements, through his accomplishments, through that kind of stuff. But it always had these effects on his relationship. So he ends up having





# Author Interview With...

## JIM SANO



this very unexpected friendship that takes him on this journey to the truth, into his past, so that he can move forward.

My second book is called *Gus Busby*, and it's probably more of an ecumenical book, and it's about an old curmudgeon who had lost his son and eventually his wife. He had given up on life and downstairs was living a single mom with her son, and they were black and Gus had had his son killed by a black gang, so there was a very difficult beginning of their relationship. It's not only a story of faith, but one of forgiveness.

The third book was a mystery 'cause my wife would be the first person editing my book she loves mysteries so *Stolen Blessing* is

a mystery about a kidnapping. I've had two other mysteries since then: *Van Horn*, a book set on the border of Mexico and Texas, and *Self Portrait*, which is about another robbery at the Isabel Stewart Gardner Museum.

Let's talk about the publishing process. How did you go about that?

It's very hard to find publishers today that'll do adult Catholic fiction and Catholic novels. Ignatius Press will do like Michael O'Brien and maybe another priest, and not too many. So I wasn't finding any success with someone that would even read the manuscript. I had talked to Michael O'Brien - he's probably one of the premier Catholic novelists today. He has written the Elijah series. I talked to him and he said that because of his health he wasn't able to read the book and do stuff, but he said, "Don't forget about praying" and it was something that just hit me when he said it. It was like the first time I really prayed and asked Mary for help. It was the first time I included her in any of my prayers. And within two weeks I had a publisher—Full Quiver Publishing. I don't think that's a coincidence. Ellen (Gable) Hrkach is a novelist herself who runs this publishing company with her husband. They are very dedicated to the faith and she was willing to take a chance on it and work to get a 735 page manuscript down to the 300 something pages that it ended up being. So that

whole process of the editing and everything to get it really down to a much better novel than the original draft I had was quite a process and I just feel blessed that they've been there to appreciate what we're trying to do on this mission to get faith out through this vehicle. So far we've published five books and the sixth one is coming out this fall and I have two other stories written. So we're working on those. But they've been great to work with. I can't say enough about how much support they've given me and what a good mutual relationship it's been.

So you touched on this a bit before, but why do you write?

I would say it's, as I said, I think it's, it's to try to do my part like, well, how am I called to share the faith? And Jesus gave us all that



# Author Interview With...

## JIM SANO



commission. He gave us all that challenge to grow out somehow, to be an example. So we're all part of that mission and I feel that these novels show you how faith is a part of real life. It's completely relatable. You can't live life fully without God and faith as part of it. You can try to, but it's missing that kind core element that has to be in the center.

What helps you write? Music, reading, specific pen, etc.?

My wife's family has a small cottage up in Maine, and, you know, you sit by the window and there's the breeze coming in off of the cove there. And there's something about that spot in the

light that just makes writing very easy. That's one place that does it.

But I think it's just sinking into the story. I mean, you don't know exactly where it's gonna go. You have characters that show up that you didn't expect, that it makes it a lot of fun. So sometimes it doesn't really matter where I am or what I'm doing; it's getting into the process of just letting it go and trying to follow the story where it leads you rather than have it all planned out from the beginning.

What has writing taught you?

I think humility in a way, knowing that this isn't all me, but I can be the hands, I can be the tool. Then all the people that help you get there... The people that do a lot to get your book to where it's the best it can be - they're not doing it for the money; they're doing it to get the word out. And the other thing is when you're meeting all these different people and you're seeing different lives and different hurts and pains or different journeys people are on, they seem to be more open to share a lot of that as they've read the stories. So that's been a real gift to me in, in the process.

Who are you inspired by in your writing?

Well, I think the main character of the books, Father Tom. He's like what Christ wants us to be like as we engage with other people. So I think the way that this character has been shaped or came the way he did, he's able to convey that message that's inspiring to me.

And then I think when I meet other people whose faith is just so strong and they've been through so much... those stories that they relate, their personal stories, have been very inspiring. You know, sometimes they end up kind of woven into the stories themselves.

Do you go back and read your writing when it's been completed?





# Author Interview With...

## JIM SANO



It's going through six or seven different edits really, so I'm rereading it then. I don't know if once it's published that I've gone back to read the books, but I've had people in and outside my family read the books four or five times, which says, you know, I should go back and read them too.

What is your advice for writers?

One is if you feel a little bit of interest, a pull, then just sit down and do it. Think about what you'd like to do. I think there's a lot of hesitancy sometimes when you have a story to tell, you have characters that really resonate. You never know what you can do

because, if God's part of the process, He's gonna help you along. So I would say just to sit down and write, whether it's a page or a short story, or a poem or something, and just see what happens. Be willing to be persistent. I was pretty sure no one was gonna pick up *The Father's Son* because it's very hard to find a publisher that'll even look at your work because there's so many people out there that are submitting publishing. I think the praying on it was big to me and I try to pass that on. It just made all the difference in the world. Have the willingness to work on the manuscript afterwards; it took me several years to get *The Father's Son* to the point where I think I could be proud of what went out versus in the beginning.

Is there anything else you want to add?

I think the more people we find out that are doing things, I think it helps inspire us to keep going. The more people you connect with, I think that you find that, hey, this is making a difference.

Also, there are tens of millions of books out there, no one knows they exist. And so I think Catholic or Christian fiction is one of those areas where word of mouth and trying to help each other get the word out is huge. I think if you do read the books, putting reviews in positive reviews in Amazon, Goodreads and some of those

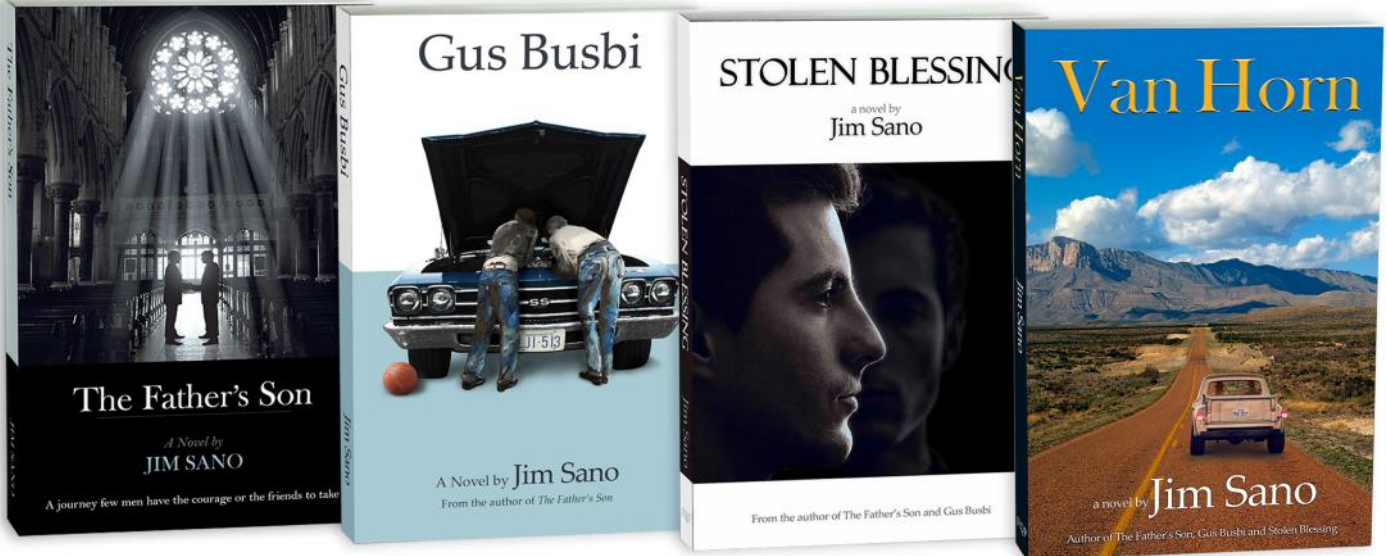
sources is a huge thing. So anything I think we can do to get the word out about each other's work, whether it's websites, magazines, books, films or whatever is out there, is great. That's one reason I really appreciate this opportunity meeting you and to be in your magazine.



Like what you see? Find Jim's books on Amazon.com and or by visiting his website: JimSano.com.  
See copies of his books on the following page.

# Author Interview With...

## JIM SANO



**“Let us trust God and our better judgment to set us right hereafter.  
United we stand, divided we fall.**

**Let us not split into factions which must destroy that union  
upon which our existence hangs.**

**Let us preserve our strength for the French, the English,  
the Germans, or whoever else shall dare invade our territory,  
and not exhaust it in civil commotions and intestine wars.”**

**~Patrick Henry,  
Last public speech before his death (March 4, 1799)**



## Book & Media Recommendations

Catechism in a Year podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz, a sequel of sorts to the highly acclaimed Bible in a Year podcast. Each episode is roughly 20 minutes, with Fr. Mike reading from the Catechism of the Catholic Church then breaking it down (in his excitable way) so it is easily understandable for anyone.  
-Sarah

The Buccaneer (1958) from Paramount Pictures, directed by Anthony Quinn, and starring the dynamic duo of Yul Brynner and Charlton Heston who starred in The Ten Commandments. It's a fictional account about the Battle of New Orleans and how the pirate Jean Lafitte helped to turn the war of 1812.  
-Amanda

Gods and Fighting Men by Lady Augusta Gregory. This book about the history of Ireland is a must read for anyone with a love for mythology. Full of mighty heroes and evil monsters, all the fun of Greek myth, and no fluff.  
-T.K.

LadyHawke (movie, 1985, rated PG-13) A historical fantasy set in the high Middle Ages about a noble Christian knight (Rutger Hauer) and his true love (Michelle Pfeifer) who battle against an apostate bishop and a sinister curse. The chaste lovers are aided by a young thief (Matthew Broderick) on the path to redemption, and a kind-hearted elderly monk in this story of love, loyalty, faith and chivalry. -Thomas

CoryXKenshin- YouTuber. Cory Williams AKA CoryXKenshin is a bright light in the world of YouTube. His hilarious game playthroughs, always ending with a Bible verse, have won him millions of admirers. He bleeps out harsh profanity, and tries to avoid gore.  
-T.K.

MacDonald & Dodds (Britbox series, 2020-2022) – Ambitious go-getter DI Lauren MacDonald arrives in Bath from London only to find herself paired with the unassuming DS Dodds, who refuses to be forced into retirement. DI MacDonald soon comes to rely on her new partner, and not just because he is secretly brilliant. In a time when being a middle-aged white man is frowned upon, this cozy mystery series (perhaps inadvertently) celebrates him. -Monica

more

## Book & Media Recommendations

National Treasure (2004) stars Nicholas Cage in a fun, American history filled flick from Disney. Cage stars as Ben Gates, an American patriot in search of the greatest American treasure in history, complete with important facts, places, and artifacts to get people interested in learning more about the history of the land of the free. -Amanda

What do YOU  
want to  
suggest?

Let us know at Editors.  
LogoSophia@gmail.com

The Catechast (podcast) – I can't describe The Catechast better than the hosts, Jack Blanch and James Donald Forbes McCann have themselves: It's "an adventure through The Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2005). It's sort of like the Catechism in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz), only by two unattractive laymen who drink and smoke and swear and commit accidental heresy." -Monica

East of Eden by John Steinbeck (Novel, 1952) - This sweeping family saga is at once a retelling of Cain and Abel and a homage to Steinbeck's own family history. Written near the end of his career, he recognized it as the book he prepared his whole life to write; it is broadly acknowledged today as his masterpiece. Steinbeck illustrates a picture of humanity with intuition and candor, leaving readers enraptured with entirely believable characters and piercing narrative. -Caroline

Jack and Jill by Louisa May Alcott - a simple tale for children about a boy and a girl who are in a bad sledding accident. Despite Jill's new inability to move from her bed, hijinks ensue through the ingenuity of Jack and their friends. Gently instructive in virtue, but an enjoyable light read nonetheless. -Sarah



America is distinct in that it was founded purely on ideological claims rather than ethnic or civil heritage. As our country has encountered weathering difficulties and shifts in population and culture, our collective ideals have also become more diluted. In some ways, this diversity in thought and tradition strengthens the beauty of our country and allows us to exist multi-faceted rather than in an echo chamber. On the other hand, these shifts have mangled our sense of collective identity. An American citizen's sense of what it means to be American is entirely contingent on their background and ideological convictions.

For some, there is a deep and distinct notability and gratitude found in being an American. This identity is associated with security, upright standing, and pride. This attitude bleeds into a greater commitment to their country and its historical ideals – perhaps, sometimes, causing them to be blind to its flaws and necessary change.

For others, there may be less of a clear sense of what an American identity could mean for them. Perhaps there is more hurt and shame associated with this ideal based on specific experiences or conflicting values. Whatever the case may be, these individuals bring essential voices of nuance and perspective. They may also, however, be overly critical of their country to a point of complete disengagement and disdain.

Wherever you find yourself situated on this spectrum, there is no denying that these are the warring paradigms of our country at the moment. It can seem a vanity to search for common ground between or to understand differing perspectives because they seem irreconcilable.

In his pivotal book *Orthodoxy*, G.K. Chesterton examines what the idea of patriotism should mean for the Christian. For Chesterton, the most distinctive and critical aspect of Christianity is its capacity to linger tautly in paradox. In *Orthodoxy*, he outlines how the intricacies of our theology are defined by this notion and that Christian life ought to reflect this fact. In the question of patriotism, he perceives a tendency towards either extreme optimism (blind allegiance) or pessimism (cynical detachment). Chesterton argues that in order for a Christian to be a true patriot of the cosmos (not just their own country), they must hold tightly both in committed love and realistic criticism towards the world.

Chesterton puts it as such:

“The point is not that this world is too sad to love or too glad not to love; the point is that when you do love a thing, its gladness is a reason for loving it, and its sadness a reason for loving it more.”

## **Cosmic Patriotism: On G.K. Chesterton & the American Identity** By Caroline Liberatore

Chesterton argues that it is not only possible but *necessary* for Christians to situate themselves tautly between these dispositions. When we do so, we acknowledge that our allegiance is to something bigger and more good than ourselves – not merely our pride or cynicism which is easily satiated by one extreme side. Furthermore, this paradox initiates movements of creative energy. One cannot remain stagnant in complacency when they love something so deeply and naively as to see it through to the end. They will be propelled towards careful action and stewardship in order to improve and correct what they esteem.

As Christians, we are commissioned by Christ in John 17 to have this disposition. In what is known as “the High Priestly Prayer,” Christ intercedes for His church: “I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world” (John 17:15-16, ESV). Christians are beckoned to be entirely engaged with their earthly surroundings in tandem with the restorative work of the Gospel while also remembering that their true belonging is found elsewhere.

To transpose this idea into our American context, it becomes clear that the American Christian is most effective when they find solace in a heavenly belonging and in a hope in Christ’s present work on earth. We must acknowledge that our allegiance belongs to God before any political system or ideological perspective. Then, the productive benefits of the Gospel unfold as unity, humility, and faithful love become the marking characteristics of the church.

Rather than finding ourselves at a perpetual, collective standstill, let us invite the unifying, redemptive, purifying movements of Christ into our country. He has never worked according to our terms—why should we expect Him to now?

\* \* \*

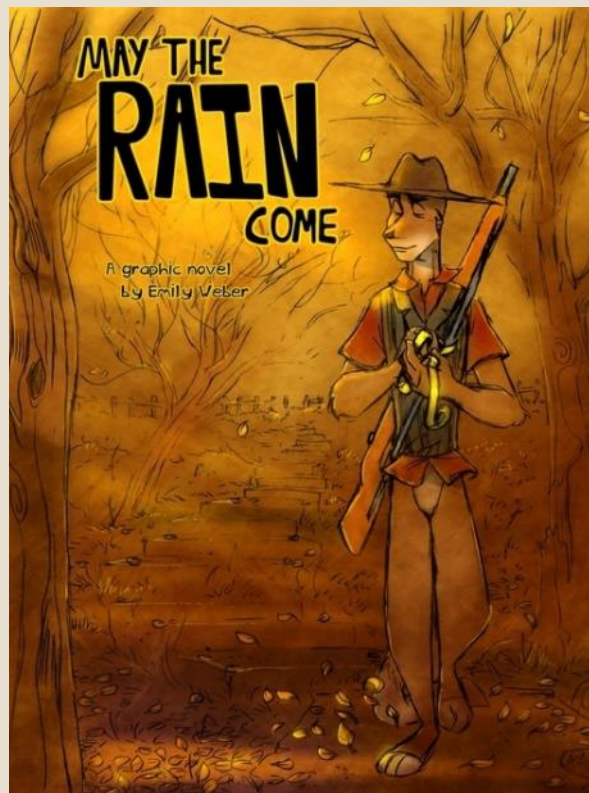
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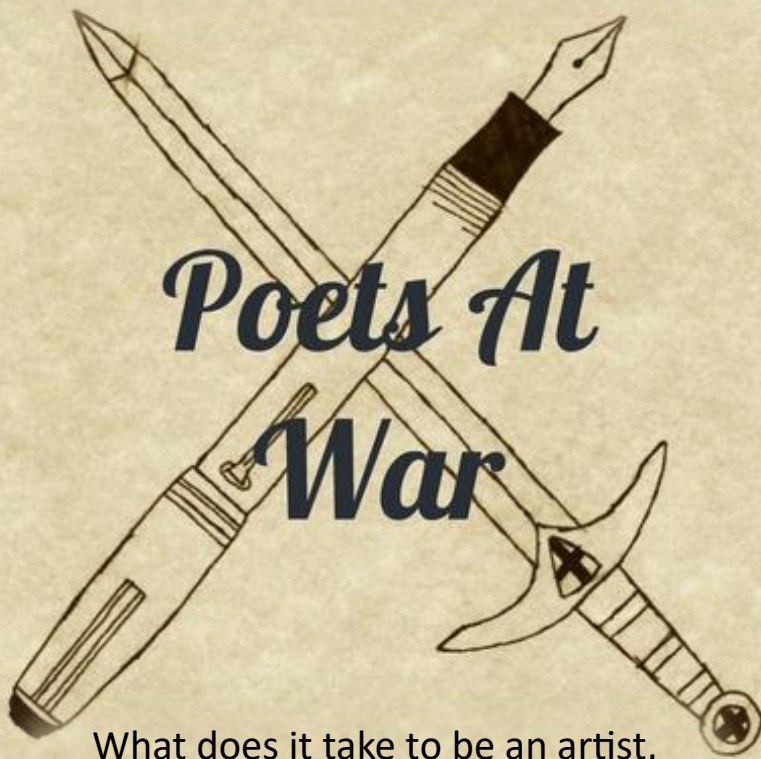
## *A Review by J.K. Wilson*

*May the Rain Come* is a webcomic featuring anthropomorphic characters. Our main character is William Weasel, a young soldier who comes home from war (it appears to be World War II) with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). He returns to his hometown to live in his parents' home as he is now all alone in the world - his brother Willard was killed in a skirmish just before the war ended and his parents passed on while he was gone. The town is in a severe drought, mimicking the inner condition of the main character. When he arrives at home he spots a beautiful stoat girl wandering on the property. Walter comes to find out that Sonia, the beautiful girl, has a mental condition (possibly autism) that keeps her mentally at the level of a child in some ways. Sonia is talented, sensitive, and innocent, the perfect balm for the war-weary young weasel. In Sonia, Walter finds reason to live and overcome his PTSD, and finally does as the rain pours down.



While the story is not explicitly Christian—it is more geared to reach everyone—Walter is a very devout young man, who credits his faith with keeping him sane during the war. Walter and Sonia are seen several times in church, where Walter used to sing in the choir. Bible verses are used several times, especially by the Pastor, but as I said, the story is geared to reach the unchurched as well as encourage believers. Author/illustrator Emily Weber admits up-front that her comic is rated PG-13 for depictions of war in William's PTSD-induced nightmares. These depictions are not graphic, but should be considered material for older readers only. William also smokes, but this was not uncommon for post-World War II vets; they didn't know how bad smoking was back then.

In all, I heartily recommend *May the Rain Come* to the adult and teen reader. The art is lovely, the story even better, the characters vibrant, even though they're animals, they act like they could be your next door neighbors. If you liked *Redwall*, Disney's *Robin Hood*, *The Wind in the Willows*, *Watership Down* and other animal fantasy, you're sure to like *May the Rain Come*! Find it at [tapas.io/series/May-the-Rain-Come/info](https://tapas.io/series/May-the-Rain-Come/info)



# Poets At War

What does it take to be an artist,  
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## Bible Trivia!

Answers on the following page

- 1) The patriarch Isaac's sons names were...
  - A. Abraham & Noah
  - B. Esau & Jacob
  - C. Joseph & Judah
  - D. James & John
- 2) How many books of the Old Testament are attributed to King Solomon?
  - A. 0
  - B. 1
  - C. 2
  - D. 3 or more
- 3) Which is the shortest Psalm in the Bible?
  - A. 1
  - B. 42
  - C. 117
  - D. 119
- 4) Who wrote the book of Lamentations?
  - A. The prophet Jeremiah
  - B. King David
  - C. King Solomon
  - D. The Apostle Matthew
- 5) Which New Testament author has the most books attributed to him?
  - A. Luke
  - B. Paul
  - C. John
  - D. Peter
- 6) St. John repeatedly affirms that the way to love God is by...
  - A. Being good
  - B. Helping others
  - C. Following God's commands
  - D. Declaring your faith
- 7) After Jesus' ascension, the apostles voted which man to take Judas Iscariot's place?
  - A. Joseph
  - B. Barsabbas
  - C. Justus
  - D. Matthias



## Bible Trivia Answers

Questions on the previous page

- 1) B: Isaac's sons were Esau and Jacob (see Genesis 25:19ff).
- 2) D: The following books are attributed to King Solomon: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and the apocryphal book Wisdom of Solomon.
- 3) C: The shortest Psalm is Psalm 117, at only two verse long.
- 4) A: The book of Lamentations is attributed to the prophet Jeremiah and is about the fall of Jerusalem in 587BC (see also 2 Kings 25).
- 5) B: Paul is generally considered the author of 13 epistles— 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Galatians, Romans, Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon, 1 & 2 Timothy, and Titus. Peter wrote three letters, Luke wrote his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, and John is credited with the Gospel of John, three letters, and the book of Revelation.
- 6) C: St. John repeatedly affirms that the way to love God is by following God's commands. See John 8:51, John 14:15-21, John 15:10-14, 1 John 2:3-4, and 2 John 6.
- 7) D: Matthias was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot. The other man nominated was Joseph, also called Barsabbas or Justus.

MMD

MONICA MURRAY DERR

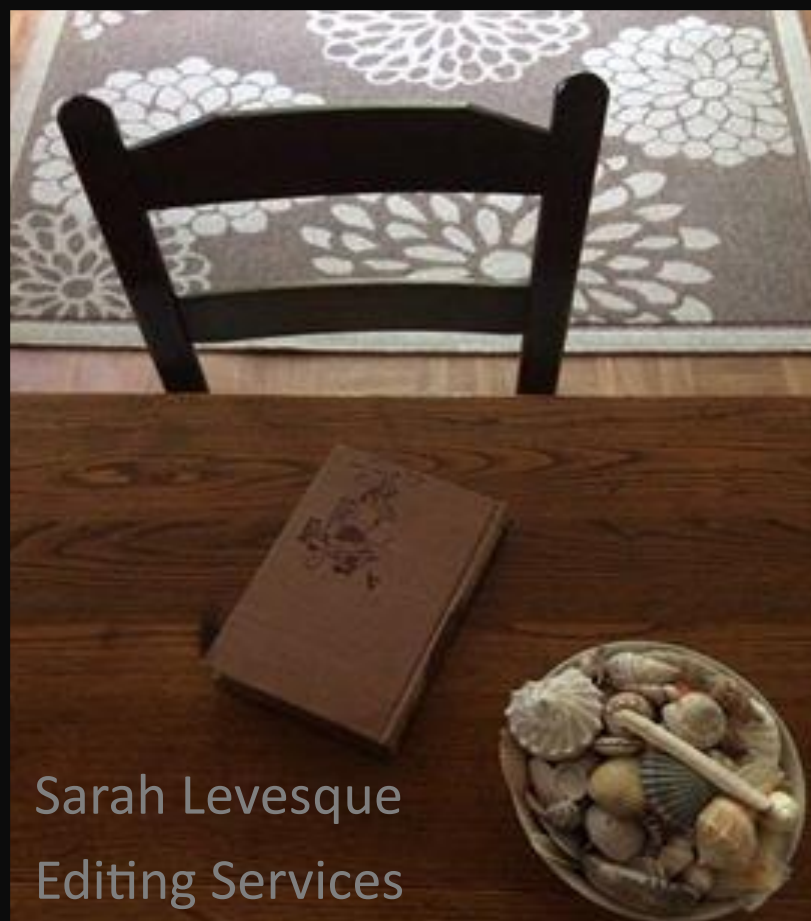
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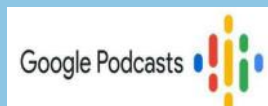
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