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- **Tapping into Theology: *The Shroud and the First Holy Week***, Tue., **Mar. 10**, 7-9 p.m., St. Peter Parish Ministry Center, 155 Jefferson St., Monument. Dr. John and Rebecca Jackson (directors of the Turin Shroud Center in Colorado Springs) will address the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin, called the greatest Christian relic of the Passion of Christ and venerated for centuries by people around the world. RSVP by March 6. RSVP & Info: [stephanierkemp@gmail.com](mailto:stephanierkemp@gmail.com).

*Our community calendar carries listings on a space-available basis for Tri-Lakes events that are sponsored by local governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations. We include events that are open to the general public and are not religious or self-promotional in nature. If space is available, complimentary calendar listings are included, when requested, for events advertised in the current issue. To have your event listed at no charge in Our Community Calendar, please call (719) 339-7831 or send the information to [calendar@ocn.me](mailto:calendar@ocn.me) or Our Community News, P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132.*

### Support Our Community Advertise in OCN!

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**For advertising information, contact John Heiser, (719) 488-3455, [ads@ocn.me](mailto:ads@ocn.me), or visit [www.ocn.me](http://www.ocn.me).**

### Letters to Our Community

Our Community News welcomes letters to the editor on topics of general interest to readers in the Tri-Lakes area. We do not knowingly print letters that are substantially the same as letters that have been submitted to other publications. To ensure that OCN contains a variety of viewpoints, each letter writer is limited to a maximum of one (1) letter per issue and six (6) letters within a twelve (12) month period. To submit a letter, please:

- Email your letter, preferably as an attached Microsoft Word document, to [editor@ocn.me](mailto:editor@ocn.me) or mail a copy to **Our Community News, P.O. Box 1742, Monument, CO 80132-1742**.
- Identify your submission as a letter to the editor and confirm that it has not been submitted to any other publication.
- Include a suggested headline or title that summarizes the topic you are addressing.
- Limit your letter to no more than 300 words including your suggested headline and closing.
- Include your full name, home address, phone numbers, and email address, if you have one. Only your name will be published.
- Submit your letter so we receive it no later than midnight, Friday, two weeks prior to the publication date.

If you have not received an acknowledgement two days after your email submission or one week after you mailed your letter, please contact Jennifer Kaylor, Managing Editor, at (719) 488-3455 or [editor@ocn.me](mailto:editor@ocn.me). At OCN's sole discretion, we may ask you for clarification of your statements. Include references, such as website links, in your letter for any facts and figures you cite. OCN does not guarantee every letter will appear in print or on-line and does not guarantee a publication date. Depending on the space available, the number of letters printed in an issue may be limited to the first 12 received. Letters containing personal attacks or endorsements for or complaints about individually-named commercial products or services will not be published.

### Look for our next issue Saturday, March 7

**Ad space reservations due: Fri., Feb. 14**  
**Finished ad artwork due: Fri., Feb. 21**  
**Letters to the editor due: Fri., Feb. 21**  
**Calendar items due: Fri., Feb. 28**

Visit our website to read, download, and search all the back issues at **[WWW.OCN.ME](http://WWW.OCN.ME)**

### The Rabbi's Corner Thank You

*By Rabbi Oswald Garagorry*

I am taking this opportunity to thank you, my dear readers. I am very appreciative for the time you have taken to read what the Lord has given me to write in *Our Community News* for the past 10 years. I want to tell you a little bit about the Aliyah Congregation, about our people and about myself. Aliyah's first meeting was on May 14, 2005. I didn't speak at our first meeting, but I have been teaching Torah ever since the second Shabbat (with a few exceptions, when we have had guest speakers). From that first gathering to the present, our goal and our emphasis has been to love YHWH our God, to love people and to honor His word. It is a goal we have upheld with great devotion.

We embrace all 66 books of the Bible, yet we have our emphasis in the first five books (The Torah) because, as stated in *Exodus 24:12*, God himself wrote the first four books of the Bible, with the expectation for us to teach it. For this reason, we have taught the Torah cycle every year for the past 14+ years of our existence in every service. The fifth book, Deuteronomy, was inspired by our God for Moses to write. If you read the first two chapters, it will become very clear to you that Moses is its author. Deuteronomy has a special place in our hearts because of Moses authorship. He is the only author of the entire Bible who spent 40 days alone with God himself (twice). The impact of these encounters in his writing can be seen very clearly.

A uniqueness of Aliyah Congregation is that all is done by brothers and sisters who love our Lord and do all that is needed for the Congregation from their hearts. As the scriptures tells us, in *Colossians 3:23*, "Whatever work you do; put yourself into it, as those who are serving not merely other people, but the Lord." No one is paid for whatever they do, because our brothers and sisters love our Lord and they do everything to please Him.

Another uniqueness of Aliyah Congregation centers on the serious issue of money. Paul warned us in his first letter to Timothy: "For the love of money is the root of all the evils." (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:10). Since we began in 2005, we have "passed the plate" to take an offering on two different occasions. The first time was a sad moment in the life of a 12 year old boy. His parents were getting divorce. He was broken-hearted and very sad. He came to the service on Shabbat and expressed his sadness to some of us. Attempting to comfort and encourage him, we passed the plate for him for the first time in our history. An offering of \$70 came in, which we gave to him. The other occasion where we passed the plate was to help a young couple who were having a difficult time in paying their rent. So we passed the plate for the second time in 14 years of existence. Without counting the money, we gave it to them in their moment of need.

So my dear reader, why am I telling you all this? For one reason only: many times we get hurt and discouraged when we start to wonder in our minds if we will ever find a group that is not focused on money, internal politics, or social status. By God's mercy since day one of our existence our aim has been to love God, love people and honor His word. Money, internal politics and social status have never had a place in the Congregation.

In light of all I have said to you, I want to communicate one more thing. Two years ago I turned 68 years old. That birthday was a day for me to think about life. After spending time with myself and my God, I made some decisions. One of them was that was when I turned 70 years old, my wife and I will return to Brazil, our Country of origin. I communicated that decision to my wife and one more person from the Congregation. Then this past January, I informed the Congregation, of my decision. So my dear reader on Shabbat, January 25, I turned 70 years old and I gave my last Torah teaching as Rabbi of Aliyah Congregation.

The word of God says: "And these things you heard from me, which were supported by many witnesses, these things commit to faithful people, such as will be competent to teach others also." 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:2. In light of this mandate, in 2010, we started the Yeshiva Torah Institute which is like a Christian seminary. The Yeshiva has been authorized by the Colorado Department of Higher Education, to function and to grant Masters and Doctors in Hebrew Letters. We have students from different parts of the country that have come, studied, graduated and been ordained as Rabbis and Rabbas. Some of them have started their own congregations; others have taken over the Rabbinate of existing congregations which is the case with Aliyah Congregation. Our Sister, Alleluyah Williams has been part of Aliyah for several years and has received her Doctor in Hebrew Letters and Ordination as a Tanakhee Rabba. Please remember her in prayer as she shepherds Aliyah Congregation for many years to come; loving God, loving people and honoring His word. So, my dear readers thank you so much for having reading my articles for the past 10 years. My wife and I pray that our Lord will use us for His honor in the days to come.

In Messiah's Love, Big hug to you,  
*Shalom.*

*Dr. Garagorry is the Rabbi of Aliyah Congregation that meets on Saturdays at 10 a.m. at the Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Highway 105, Palmer Lake, CO 80133*  
[www.aliyahcongregation.com](http://www.aliyahcongregation.com) • (719) 330-2382  
**Visitors are welcome!**



### Content

Articles in *Our Community News* focus on the deliberations of Tri-Lakes area governmental bodies such as the Monument Board of Trustees, Palmer Lake Town Council, and many of the local water, sanitation, fire, and school district boards.

Unlike papers that try to figure out what the "story" is and then get quotes on each side to presumably lead the reader to conclude what the "truth" is, OCN's role is to report in detail on public meetings of local governmental entities. We report what was talked about and what was decided. By reading OCN, you can find out what you might have learned if you had attended those public meetings. In this context, "truth" is that the articles accurately represent what transpired at the meetings.

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