

Faith questions

BY BILL BROADWAY
The Washington Post

Is it becoming politically incorrect to refer to dates as B.C. and A.D. rather than B.C.E. and C.E.?

Many historians now use the abbreviations B.C.E. (before the common era) and C.E. (the common era) instead of B.C. (before Christ) and A.D. (anno domini, or in the year of our Lord), arguing that the traditional terms offend billions of non-Christians. Others say it's pointless to change because the internationally accepted Gregorian calendar is based on Christian chronology no matter what terminology is used.

Whether the new abbreviations are more precise or merely more politically correct will remain a matter of opinion for the foreseeable future.

If the Friday before Easter commemorates Jesus' death, why is it called Good Friday?

"Good" is an archaic English word meaning "holy," as in the ancient reference to Christmas as "good tide." Many Christians also consider Jesus' crucifixion "good" because of its intended purpose, the salvation of humanity. Some churches officially recognize the day with different terminology. The Roman Catholic Church refers to it as the "Friday of the Passion and Death of Our Lord." Eastern Orthodox

churches, celebrating it a week later, call it "Great and Holy Friday."

What is the difference between a crucifix and a cross?

Crucifixes are crosses, but not all crosses are crucifixes. A crucifix generally depicts Jesus on the cross and is most often seen in Catholic churches in three-dimensional form and in Eastern Orthodox churches as a flat icon. Protestants typically display crosses without the image of Jesus, a practice that probably started with the Reformation and reformers' efforts to rid sanctuaries of all statues, believing them to be idolatrous.

Crusades

FROM PAGE 4

the popes sought to increase their authority and promised indulgences to wipe out penalties the Crusaders owed for their sins.

Perhaps the single worst atrocity in Christian annals occurred when the Crusaders took Jerusalem in 1099 and slaughtered virtually all Muslim and Jewish inhabitants. They converted Islam's Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa Mosque to secular use. Contemporary Muslim militants have exploited those memories.

The Crusades had a devastating effect within Christianity, worsening the split between

Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy. In 1204, Crusader mobs pillaged Constantinople. Some say that weakened the country and aided the Muslim conquest in 1453, after which Orthodoxy's prime sanctuary, Hagia Sophia, was turned into a mosque and later a museum.

The Crusaders' Holy Land reign was short-lived and was never much of a threat to Islam, historians say. But the Crusades ended Muslim rule in Spain by 1492 and countered a serious military threat to Christian Europe.

Regarding the movie's topic, "Jerusalem Besieged" (University of Michigan Press) by historian Eric H. Cline has the widest scope, covering conflicts over the Holy City from Old Testament times to the present.

Worship

FROM PAGE 4

istry. I kept asking God how he could call me into ministry when I don't enjoy traditional church."

He believes that God eventually revealed to him that his calling should be to help develop services that are relevant to his generation and to lead people into "authentic times of worshipping and meeting with God."

Designing services that are creative, contemporary and understandable, using the arts "to bring people into

God's presence and to communicate His truth," while following the Bible is how Horness answers his calling.

"My job is to lead the teams of really gifted humble and godly artists that long to use their gifts to make a difference for the Kingdom of God," Horness said.

Horness also enjoys working with area church leaders to share the word of God. He believes there is room for every church in the area.

"This is not a competition. It is my hope to see all churches in town flourish and to make a significant impact in the lives of people," Horness said.

Michelle Arntz is a local freelance writer.



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September 18th

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