

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 41 June 2015



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSAI.

## "Tolerance"

Brethren, as we are all well aware, Freemasonry has been around for centuries. Despite the numerous challenges it has faced, despite its persecution in many forms, despite the very changing world in which we live, Freemasonry survives and, indeed, usually prospers. In this regard it is something of a rarity, so what is it that gives Freemasonry its appeal? What makes Freemasonry different? The reality is that a belief in and worship of a higher power, the promotion of moral conduct, the provision of charity and the social interaction of men are all well catered for and often in a more effective manner than in Freemasonry. Where I would suggest that we are different, Brethren, is that we promote Tolerance.

Oxford Dictionary defines Tolerate as "endure or permit; allow to exist or be practiced without interference or molestation; forbear to judge harshly." Tolerance is, of course, "a willingness to tolerate."

In his very first obligation as a Freemason, our new Brother promises to observe the commandment "Do unto others as you would they do unto you" and further promises "that within the Lodge I shall recognise no civil or political connections, still less take into account religious tenets, but will only acknowledge perfect equality". With our hands on the Volume of Sacred Law, we solemnly promise to be Tolerant! We promise to accept men as men and to assess them on their qualities as men - and yet, all too often, we hear Freemasons condemning men based on their religion, the colour of their skin, their political affiliation or other factors which simply have nothing to do with their individual qualities as men.

The time has come where those Brethren who sincerely believe in the principles promoted by our

beautiful Order have to stand up and be counted. We live in a world where men are dying in the name of religion and the conduct of ISIS and Boko Haram shocks us all; where Xenophobia has been tearing our country apart and undermining our external relationships; where white American police shoot a black youth because he behaved suspiciously; where people are at war with each other because of their physical differences. But we cannot just assume that all Moslems support ISIS, because they certainly don't; that all black South Africans practice Xenophobia, because they certainly don't; that all white Americans are against their black counterparts, because it simply isn't true; or that every member of another race or creed is a criminal, because they certainly aren't! We, as Freemasons, need to stretch out a hand of friendship to like-minded good men from all walks of life and backgrounds and help build those bridges which will give us all a chance of a meaningful future. We have to practise Tolerance!

A while ago I came across an internet article relating a true story of an event which took place in the USA in the mid 1880s. Let me share it with you.

Moses F Shinn, a Methodist minister in Iowa was a powerful leader in his church and in his Lodge and was loved and respected by all. A time arose when his church co-workers, persons uninformed as to Freemasonry and its teaching, sought to increase his usefulness to the church by requiring him to renounce Freemasonry and devote all his energies to their church. They approached him and announced that this would be required were he to stay in the church.

After much soul-searching, Bro Shinn was called upon for his response. The options presented to him were unbearable, but he had to reply. Finally, he rose to his feet and spoke in a clear voice: "I have for many years tried to perform my duty as a faithful Minister and I believed I had extended the field of my usefulness, without violation of my vows to the church, by becoming a loyal and zealous Freemason. Now you demand that I renounce Freemasonry or retire from the church. I wish not to be separated from either, but you have made the demand and it is not for me to question it. So, at your bidding, I withdraw from the Methodist Episcopal Church." Bro Shinn then sat down to control his emotions.

The silence was oppressive, and then men started to come forward. If Bro Shinn felt so strongly about Freemasonry, they wanted to be part of it! That day saw the joining of 2 men who would later become Grand Masters and various other quality applicants.

Brethren, I would suggest that we, as members of our Grand Lodge, may also be at a crossroads. We have solemnly committed ourselves to practicing

Tolerance and, if we are to have anything resembling a meaningful Masonic future, we have to apply it! We live in a country where, for historical reasons, men have been separated over the years. We have been raised with and surrounded by prejudices and we simply have to put these behind us. We, as Freemasons, now more than ever, need to set an example as to how good men should really interact with each other - and “we”, Brethren, means each and every one of us. Those of us who are committed to living by our Masonic promises cannot just stand back and let them be compromised. We must, just like our Bro Moses Shinn, be prepared to take a stand and I have no doubt whatsoever that the ultimate rewards will make it all so very worthwhile.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM  
Grand Master**

### Consecration of Lodge Tolerance.

On the holiday weekend at the beginning of May, Grand Lodge visited Port Elizabeth to attend the installation of a new Master at Bartholomew Diaz and to consecrate and attend the first installation of a new Master at Lodge Tolerance. The whole weekend was an enormous success and RW Bro Hansie Greyling’s work as Installing Officer at both installations was most impressive. Grand Lodge, of course, performed the consecration of Lodge Tolerance and the Grand Master was assisted by his Deputy, both Assistants and various other senior Officers.



*The Lodge Tolerance Petitioners*

Consecrating a new Lodge is not something that happens every day and the symbolic hallowing of the Lodge with Corn, Wine and Oil really is very special for those sharing in the ceremony.



*MW Bro Geoff Edwards hands the corn  
to RW Bro Dave Duncan*

*The Founder Master  
of Lodge Tolerance,  
Wor Bro Roy Winton,  
with the Eastern Cape  
Provincial Grand  
Master, RW Bro  
Hansie Greyling*



*The members of Lodge Tolerance, seated in front,  
with Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge and the  
Representatives of the Sister Constitutions*

### Lodge Libertas, No 16, Family Day.

The BB and their families put aside their traditional “jukskei implements” and took up throwing “horse shoes” on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May on the lawns at the Halse Street Temple in Krugersdorp. The Lodge has a good social program and truly believes in the maxim “a Lodge that plays together stays together”. Freemasonry is Fun, Brethren, and it’s always good to see our Masonic families enjoying themselves.



*Some of the Participants*



The competition was won by Cynthia and Hennie Kotze with Angela le Roux and Megan Breet taking the wildcard event. Rumour has it that they were really just practising for a showdown with a Sister Lodge. It seems to us that there may well be some truth in this, as we’ve heard that the event was “spied upon” by one of the opposition!



## Installation at Royal Arch Chapter Orange



The Installation of Chapter Orange No 12 took place in Rustenburg on 16 May 2015. The new MEZ is E Comp J Malan, EH is E Comp DS Fourie and the EJ is E Comp H Oosthuizen. The ceremony was a most memorable one and was conducted in an exemplary manner by E Comp M Kotze.

### Annual Installation of the Eastern Division.

Whilst many may sometimes assume that the work of a Grand Lodge Officer revolves around attending Annual Installations and “looking good,” nothing could be further from the truth. The Officers of the Grand Lodge are charged by the Order with looking to the future, planning the strategic path forward and leading the Brethren towards those goals and objectives.

The work of the Grand Lodge started on the morning of Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May with a one day seminar in which the Secretaries and Treasurers of the Divisions of the GLSA, facilitated by the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, reviewed our current operating procedures and protocols. Based on their findings, initiatives have been developed which can streamline the administration of the Grand Lodge, in order to make it “more user friendly” and relevant to the needs of a modern organisation.

On the Friday night, we were entertained at a thoroughly enjoyable pre-Installation dinner, hosted by RW Bro Frans Roodt, Provincial Grand Master of the Eastern Division, and his Officers.

On Saturday, we attended the Annual Installation of the Division in which RW Bro Roodt reported on a successful year and thanked his Officers for their hard work and support.

RW Bro Roodt has appointed and installed Wor Bro Basil de Kock as Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the Division.

Due to work commitments, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Wor Bro Grant Futter, had to stand down and Wor Bro Bill Murphy was appointed in his place. The Grand Master welcomed these new appointments and indicated that he had very high expectations that they will be able to carry forth their good work in the ranks, into the role of their senior appointments. The Division has a diverse range of Lodges and personalities and there is every reason to believe that they can build on their past success.

Other appointments were;

Senior Warden: Wor Bro Anton van Rooyen.

Junior Warden: Wor Bro Roelof Janse van Rensburg.

The Saturday evening event consisted of a Charity Dinner in aid of the Inter-Constitutional Masonic Services Committee. Auctions and raffles were held and pledges were made to raise funds for the charitable interventions that the MSC makes in the Eastern Division. (Some of these have been reported in previous editions of S&C.)

Overall, it was a long and busy, but most enjoyable weekend, much enjoyed by all who attended. Who says that work cannot be fun?

### Masonic Benevolence.

Brethren, we go to great lengths to emphasise that Freemasonry is not a charity, but that we do charitable works. This ranges from the collections taken at every regular meeting to the fund-raising events undertaken for specific recipients.

In the Southern Division, they run the “Masonic Homes” project and in the Northern Division, they have the Inter-constitutional Masonic Charity, which dispenses monthly subsistence grants and educational bursaries. Our other Divisions also have their own initiatives.

Please remember that the Grand Lodge and its Divisions all have access to the Benevolence Funds, which you have raised or donated, and which can be applied to worthy causes.

Regrettably, the funds are not in endless supply but, if you feel that you are aware of a suitably deserving cause, an application can be made to your Provincial Grand Secretary for consideration.

### A Simple Thought:

*A boat was docked in a tiny Mexican fishing village.*

*A tourist complimented the local fishermen on the quality of their fish and asked how long it took to catch them.*

*"Not very long" they answered in unison.*

*"Why didn't you stay out longer and catch more?"*

*The fishermen explained that their small catches were sufficient to meet their needs and those of their families.*

*"But what do you do with the rest of your time?"*

*"We sleep late, fish a little, play with our children, and take siestas with our wives.*

*In the evenings, we go into the village to see our friends, have a few drinks, play the guitar, and sing a few songs.*

*We have a full life."*

*The tourist interrupted them,*

*"I have an MBA from Harvard and I can help you!*

*You should start by fishing longer every day.*

*You can then sell the extra fish you catch.*

*With the extra revenue, you can buy a bigger boat."*

**"And after that?"**

*"With the extra money the larger boat will bring, you can buy a second one and a third one and so on until you have an entire fleet of trawlers. Instead of selling your fish to a middle man, you can then negotiate directly with the processing plants and maybe even open your own plant.*

*You can then leave this little village and move to Mexico City, Los Angeles, or even New York City!!! From there you can direct your huge new enterprise."*

**"How long would that take?"**

*"Twenty, perhaps twenty-five years." replied the tourist.*

**"And after that?"**

*"Afterwards? Well my friends, that's when it gets really interesting," answered the tourist, laughing. "When your business gets really big, you can start buying and selling stocks and make millions!"*

**"Millions? Really? And after that?" asked the fishermen.**

*"After that you'll be able to retire, live in a tiny village near the coast, sleep late, play with your children, catch a few fish, take a siesta with your wife and spend your evenings drinking and enjoying your friends."*

**"With all due respect sir, but that's exactly what we are doing now.**

**So what's the point of wasting twenty-five years?" asked the Mexicans.**

*The moral of this story is:*

***Be sure that you know what you want from your life, because you may already have it!***

**Money is not everything.**

***"Live your life before life becomes lifeless"***  
*~ Unknown.*

***Enjoy your life!***

## GRAND LODGE REGALIA ITEMS

*"Wear them with pride".*

The following items of regalia of the Grand Lodge of South Africa are currently available from the Grand Lodge Office.



The price of the tie is R100.



The cufflinks cost R140.

Both of these items are only available whilst the current stocks last.

## Almoner's Corner.

We have had several BB and a family member in hospital this month and we ask for you to remember them in your prayers to the GAOTU to grant them a speedy relief from their suffering.

Wor Bro Lionel Pithy (Lodge Marina), is suffering from cancer and not well.

RW Bro Charlie Inggs (Lodge Theophilus) is recovering from chest and kidney complaints. This is a recurrence of a problem that he has had for some time now. Charlie is one of those special Brethren who are always cheerful and never complain. Charlie, we wish you a speedy return to full health.

VW Bro Swenny Crofton (Lodge Simon van der Stel) who has been having treatment for cancer for some months now has had a scan and the results were very positive. We said it would take a miracle and it looks as though the GAOTU has provided one!

Wor Bro Frank Macnicol (Lodge de Morgenster) is having a back problem which has limited his mobility somewhat. It has not been a good time for his family, for as soon as Frank was discharged from hospital, his wife was admitted. We hope that you both are getting better and will soon be back in action.

Wor Bro Dennis Benadie (Lodge Simon van der Stel) has also had a short sojourn in hospital and Thelma, wife of RW Bro Morris Rozen (Lodge de Goede Verwachting) has had a knee replacement. We hope that you both will be well again soon.

Wor Bro Doug Kirton, (Lodge Isandlwana), having just returned from an attempt at the English Constitution's "Silver Matchbox" working in London, has been hospitalised. The procedure was a success and Doug is recuperating at home.

Brethren; traditionally this is a bad time of the year for colds and flu, both of which can develop into more serious ailments. I know that Lodge rooms can be cold at times so please take care to wrap up well.

To finish with a far more cheerful report; Wor Bro Grant Futter (Lodge Theophilus) has become the Grandfather of a lovely baby girl. Congratulations Grant, but I guess that we will have to wait until the next generation for a "Lewis".

## Grand Almoner

Brethren, the Grand Almoner is only as effective as the information he receives. Please, if anything is known about a Brother in distress, be sure to phone RW Bro Neville Klein OSM at 071 4148869 or send him an email to:

[kleinneville@gmail.com](mailto:kleinneville@gmail.com)



**In matters of conscience, the law of majority has no place.**

*Gandhi*