

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 59 December 2016



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSM.

A Thought for the Festive Season

Freemasonry is, above all things, a blueprint for a more meaningful way of life. It promotes Truth, Morality and Brotherly Love. It encourages its Brethren to practise Charity and to place above all things their God and their Families.

At this time of year, as we move into the season of goodwill towards all men, our awareness of our relationships with our God and our Families tends to reach its apex. This really is the time when we relax and enjoy the warmth that sharing special time with our loved ones invariably brings - and so it should be.

Many of those around us, however, are simply not so fortunate. There are so many people, including some of our own Brethren, who will not be able to celebrate the festive season with the same relaxed exuberance that we will. There are those who are sick, those who have recently lost loved ones, those who simply can't afford the very basic necessities of life, let alone enjoy a Christmas family lunch.

Let us keep them in our thoughts and prayers and do what we can, however small or simple it may seem, to enrich their journey and to make their life a happier and more appealing one. Never forget that what might seem a very small and insignificant action on your part really could make an enormous difference to somebody in a less fortunate situation.

To each and every one of you and to all those near and dear to you, may you enjoy a truly blessed festive season and may 2017 be a very special year filled with peace, health and happiness. I look forward to sharing even just a small part of your journey.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM
Grand Master**

Making Tolerance a Reality

18 months ago I wrote an article on Tolerance and I have explored this further in several subsequent articles. In my opinion, it is an absolutely fundamental exemplification of a true Masonic life and just one of the attributes that makes our beautiful Order so very special and appealing to Brethren such as myself.

I recently, however, came across an article exploring the concept as it is applied in the UAE and thought that it was worth sharing some of it with you.

"Sheikh Zayed imparted his values and wisdom on to the people of the UAE and it is no surprise that Mohammed bin Zayed introduced 'Moral Education' to the school curriculum. He wished to immortalise Sheikh Zayed's message among the children.

Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed, President of the UAE, and heir to Sheikh Zayed's wisdom and tolerance, recently introduced an Anti-Discrimination Law in order to protect our community and preserve our legacy of tolerance. We have a Minister of Tolerance, whose role it is to follow up on the implementation of this law, especially with a view to online platforms such as social media. We do not want to experience the side effects of sectarianism, racism or hatred in our communities. We do not want to see any discrimination based on colour, sect or origin."

I find these efforts to promote Tolerance within their community highly commendable and just wish that more of the world would follow their example.

A Tribute to our Ladies

Some time ago, a Brother related an amusing story of Adam going to God and asking for a mate. He outlined a picture of his ideal partner while God listened carefully. When he had finished, God assured Adam that it could be arranged, but it would cost him an arm and a leg. "Oh my goodness", said Adam, "What do I get for a rib?". We all laughed heartily.

If I'm honest though, I suspect that the Adam story has got a little twisted. In truth, it seems far more likely that either Adam had greatly pleased God, who decided to reward him with a very special partner, or that God, having completed Adam, looked at his handiwork and said to himself "I can do better than that" - and set about creating Eve. For, in my opinion, our Ladies are far more attractive to look at than we men are and, by their very nature, tend to be kinder, gentler and more compassionate and understanding. In creating a partner for man, God truly excelled himself and I know I talk on behalf of all the Brethren when I assure the Ladies that we really do appreciate how very much our lives are enriched by your love and support.

Lodge Perseverance Installation

It is a too little known fact that during the time of apartheid in South Africa there was only one organisation permitted to fraternize or socialise with "coloured" people, this being Freemasonry. Prince Hall Lodges were founded in South Africa around 1900. By the early 1970s two of them, including Perseverance in Cape Town, expressed a desire to be part of a more local structure and applied to join the GLSA. Over the next 5 years there was considerable interaction with the Nationalist Government on the subject and, in 1977, the members of Perseverance were accepted as full members of the GLSA with unrestricted rights of visitation to our own and Sister Constitution Lodges.

Over the past few years the Lodge has fallen on some very difficult times. Nonetheless, they have kept faith in their principles and have now started to show some very positive results. Wor Bro Theo Lindeboom



Wor Bros Clive Daniels, Jan Venter, Andre Engelbrecht, Theo Lindeboom, Gordon Creighton, Dawie van Rooyen.

was reinstalled as the Master, gave a very encouraging valedictory report and left all of those present feeling far more optimistic about the Lodge's future.

The Installation was most effectively performed by Wor Bro Andre Engelbrecht who was assisted by Wor Bros Jan Venter and Dawie van Rooyen.

Grand Master's visit to the Benin Installation

At the beginning of 2016 the Grand Committee determined to continue to develop our relationships with other foreign Grand Lodges. While Africa would be our prime focus, we would also ensure that we continue to be visible in Europe and around the world.

My November visit to Benin was our 3rd and final African visit for 2016 and, as with the other two, was most successful. Benin has a population of some 11 million people, most of whom are extremely poor, and French is the dominant language. I am given to understand that 60% are Christian and 20% Moslem.

I arrived at Cotonou airport at 9h30 pm on Friday and was whisked through to a dinner party at the new Grand Master's home - which, quite frankly, was beautifully furnished and more like a Palace. He is an extremely rich and generous man who had made his wealth by founding and developing Universities and places of higher education.

On Saturday morning we left our hotel early as it was a 1 hour drive to the Temple through some very run-down areas and our scheduled start was 9h00 am. We finally got there and I was blown away by this magnificent building. It was a €4 million gift to the

Grand Lodge from their new Grand Master. The main Temple itself, for example, has a tiered ground floor and an upper gallery and it easily accommodated the



500 plus people at the Installation. This, incidentally, started over 2 hours late but I was not remotely concerned as it just gave me more time to interact with Brethren from the other 15 Grand Lodges present.

Entry protocol was strictly observed and I was one of the last to enter. Their ceremonial work was superb and they project a very high commitment to their Masonry. The Installation was well performed by the Grand Master of France, MW Bro J-P Servel.

At the end of the ceremony we went to a next door Marquee to attend a Banquet. The Heads of Delegations were then driven back to Cotonou to spend time with Benin's



young, dynamic *with RW Bro Reg Goodridge (Liberia)* and highly respected new President. He's not a Freemason yet, but they expect him to join them soon.

That evening saw 600 guests attending the



Grand Banquet and, once again, it was very well run - even if it was 2 hours late! I sat alongside Teko Foley, Past Grand Master of Washington DC,

with Ghana's RW Bro Kwadjo Butah and made some invaluable progress in terms of developing our relationships with the very supportive Americans. I retired at 1h30 am, but suspect that most of the guests partied for several more hours.

On Sunday we had our final Banquet, this time at the new Grand Master's "Palace". It was, once again, very organised and we sat at the new Grand Master's table. At one stage I heard some chanting from behind me and assumed it was part of the entertainment. I turned around to discover that it was the President, followed by a line of other guests. On reaching our table he drew us into his retinue and we all circled past the new Grand Master chinking glasses with him as we went by. We then linked hands around the table and danced exuberantly as the tribute song reached it's fun-filled climax. An amazing finish to a special weekend!

MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM

Installation of Lodge Friendship No 95.

On Wednesday 26 October, Wor Bro Ini Akpan performed his first Installation as an Assistant PGM with great aplomb. There were 42 Brethren present including GLSA Grand Officers and senior representatives from our Sister Constitutions. VW Bro Peet Roos, Deputy PGM, headed the PGL delegation.

In the unavoidable absence of the Presiding Master, Wor Bro Antoin Mulaba-Bufubiandi, who was away on business, RW Bro Dave Duncan OSM read a valedictory report which reflected the progress and challenges the Lodge had experienced. The progress was reflected by the continued growth of the Lodge and the challenges revolved mainly around the usually unavoidable absences of the younger Brethren. We all appreciate how difficult it is to conduct business these days and last minute panics seem to have become the norm in everyday life. Maybe this is due to the abuse of technology, where a “whatsapp” at the last possible hour is taken as a demand for immediate assistance!

Wor Bro Nicholas Garcia was installed as Master of the Lodge. He and his wife Dudu run the Lodge's benevolent efforts at the Thatoke-Matla Orphanage in the Orange Grove informal settlement outside Johannesburg where orphaned and abandoned children are cared for. This Orphanage is funded entirely by donations.



The children of the Orphanage making the best of what they have.

Lodge Friendship also believes that “if we play together; we stay together” and held their fourth annual “Eddie Braver Memorial Horseshoe competition” on a beautiful summer day at Barry and Margaret Hunt's Honeydew stables on Sunday 20 November. 19 adult teams of 2, being members of 4 local Lodges and their families and guests, took part in this fun event. The trophy was recaptured from Lodge Libertas, by Dudu and Francis Garcia of Lodge Friendship. The trophy for the highest single game score was won by Marius and Angela Mostert from Libertas, who had been almost unbeatable on every previous occasion.



Francis and Patricia Garcia are the Presiding Master's parents, and were out on holiday from France. Wor Bro Nicholas assured everybody that there was absolutely no truth in the rumour that his father had been specially flown over for the event, in order to take full advantage of his “boules” skills.



There was even a trophy for the winning junior team

Lodge First United spoils needy children

Durban's Lodge First United has a most impressive record of working in the community and truly showing the spirit of compassion that we all should demonstrate when “Freemasons are at work”.



Bro Peter Thompson, Wor Bro Basil de Kock & Bro Johan Muller.

On this occasion, led by Bro Johan Muller, who owns the Mozambik Restaurant in Umhlanga, the Brethren treated 127 very appreciative residents of the Malvern Children's Home to spicy chicken rolls and cold drinks - “Mozambik” style.

Cape Lodges hold Golf Day for Quad House

On Saturday 26 November Southern Division Lodges Simon van der Stel and Johan van Riebeeck combined forces to hold a fund-raising Golf Day in aid of our Masonic Home for Quadriplegics. This most successful event was held at the Skills Golf course in Kraaifontein and raised some R6,000. The organisers were Wor Bros Dennis Benadie, Koos du Preez and Jan Venter and they not only held a golf tournament but also laid on music and very tasty snacks and drinks to ensure that the participants were more than well catered for.



Our Quads were there to support the event

Losie Diamond Nr 22 Installation

The Annual Meeting took place on 29 October and Wor Bro Bokkie Fourie was installed into the chair by Agb Br Fred Meiring for the third successive year. The meeting was attended by 14 Brethren.

Koffiefontein is a small farming community 140km from Bloemfontein and close to Kimberley. It originated around a diamond mine in 1870. The Lodge was consecrated in 1907 and represents a valuable landmark in the history of the GLSA.



RW Bro Alf Brönnner with Wor Bro Bokkie Fourie in centre.

The Free Staters are of hardy stock and this is particularly well demonstrated by their PGMs. In this picture Alf Brönnner (centre) is seen with two Central Division stalwarts, RW Bros Frikkie Botha and Peter Watkinson OSM. Frikkie is due to receive his 60 year jewel at the next Central Division AGM in March 2017.



Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming "WOW! What a ride!"

Eastern Cape's Annual Meeting & Installation

The Eastern Cape Division's AGM was held in Port Elizabeth's Parliament Street Temple on Saturday 12 November. Having spent a successful year finding out what was really happening, RW Bro Keith Hutton was installed as the new Provincial Grand Master by the Grand Master, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM. The event was well supported by Senior Representatives of our Sister Divisions and Constitutions. Having formally taken over the Chair, the new PGM MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM and then obligated and invested his PGL Officers. This included installing Wor Bro Nowellyn van Vuuren as an Assistant PGM.



MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM and RW Bro Keith Hutton

RW Bro Keith Hutton's annual report was a positive one as he outlined his program for the

development of his Division. After several challenging years, it is good to see that the enthusiasm amongst the Brethren is now returning and we all look forward to a new age of prosperity for our Eastern Cape Division.

The weekend festivities were as good as we have come to expect in terms of hospitality from a very hospitable Division. The really superb pre-AGM dinner was held at "Thatchwoods" while those who stayed over on Saturday night all got together at a local steakhouse and relaxed and enjoyed each other's company. In the true spirit of the Brotherhood, old friendships were renewed and new ones made.

Almoner's Corner

We wish our more than active Grand Treasurer, VW Bro Brandon Topham (Koh-I-Nor), a speedy recovery after his brief stay in hospital. All went well and he now needs to take some well earned rest!

VW Bro Louis Wolsinck (Royal Protea) continues to fight cancer in a Cape Town hospital and you are urged to keep him and Marinda in your thoughts and prayers.

VW Bro Heimo Schaum (Alpha) has had a cataract operation and Wor Bro Wolfgang Raskop (Friendship) was struck down by a dose of bacterial pneumonia. Fortunately, both are recovering well and hope to be back "on the square" shortly.

Grand Almoner

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

kleinneville@gmail.com



GRAND LODGE REGALIA ITEMS

"Wear them with pride".

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

The price of the tie is R100.



The cufflinks cost R140.

Both items are only available whilst the current stocks last.

The Grand Lodge is also having printed some hard cover Lodge Attendance Registers with 300 pages. Price: R400

