

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 65 June 2017



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSM.

Freemasonry is a Way of Life

During last year's memorable visit to Israel, we spent an evening at the Grand Lodge of Israel's complex in Tel Aviv where we were hosted by the Holy Land Lodge. We were shown various displays, one of which commemorated MW Bro Joe Salem, a much loved Past Grand Master of their Grand Lodge.

Joe Salem had previously been the Provincial Grand Master of Rhodesia and I duly informed our hosts that he had proposed my father as a Freemason in Salisbury in 1947. A few years later Joe had followed his sons to Israel, but my father still interacted with him from time to time. My hosts listened to my story and then, to my utter delight, advised me that Joe's son, Wor Bro Mike Salem, was our host for the evening and that I would be seated next to him at the festive board!

As many of you also know, I have produced the Masonic Spring Ball Magazine since 1995. In 2003, I included a MW Bro Joe Salem article written in 1988. Time moves on and technological advances bring many changes to our daily lives, but as Joe's article illustrates, the Masonic message and principles remain as valid and consistent today as they have always been.

Joe Salem wrote - "Freemasonry is not, as many believe, a secret society, nor is it a friendly society for mutual insurance against illness or distress. It is true that Masonry has secret modes of recognition which every Mason is sworn to preserve inviolate but its teachings contain nothing that is secret or suspect.

Many and various are the objectives that its opponents have attributed to Freemasonry, some worthy, some political, and some even traitorous. The

fact is that, "Freemasonry" is an organised society of men symbolically applying the principals of operative masonry and architecture to their characters. It looks to unite men in the bonds of brotherly love and mutual friendship and has no ulterior aims of any sort.

It is a life to be lived, not a formality to be observed; a life to be lived, not a set of empty creeds to which lip-service only is given. It is a life grounded in religion, organised in morality, mellowed by good fellowship, humanised in Charity, dedicated to service.

The teachings of Freemasonry are all based on a code of ethics and moral behaviour which has been pronounced by the sages of every country and land as those alone which will lead to that universal peace, happiness, welfare and brotherhood which we all desire but seem incapable of bringing to fruition. Uninformed and bigoted men have proclaimed Freemasonry as an enemy of the Church and the State, yet Masonry bars from discussion all matters of political and religious import and demands of its members loyalty to the laws of the State wherever they may live and prohibits them from involvement in all plots and intrigues whatever their nature or purpose.

It is true that every Masonic ceremony opens with a prayer, and no ceremony may be conducted save with the Bible, Koran or other Sacred Volume lying open in the Lodge; yet Freemasonry is not a religion nor a substitute for such, for while religion tends to divide men into many sects, castes and denominations the purpose of Freemasonry is to unite men in the common bond of brotherhood whatever their political or religious views and affiliations, as long as they profess a belief in the Great Architect of the Universe, whoever they deem him to be, and are willing to preserve inviolate the "secrets" already referred to.

These are facts which all are entitled to know. It has been well said that while Freemasonry is no longer on trial, every Freemason is. Freemasonry cannot be judged by the wrongful acts of individual Masons. If every Freemason truly sought to live the Masonic way of life, the world would be a better place. While the various religious sects are divided by dogma and differ in their ceremony, Freemasonry lacks dogma. Its tenets are summed up in a sincere belief in the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man, the moral law, the Golden Rule and the hope of a life hereafter."

MW Bro Joe Salem is absolutely correct. Above all things, Freemasonry is a Way of Life and it is a real privilege to share his age-old wisdom with you.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM
Grand Master**



The Installation of Lodge Isandlwana and the Eastern Division Annual Meeting.

Towards the end of April RW Bro Frans Roodt met with a most unfortunate accident. His motor cycle toppled over and his ankle was severely broken. Worse was to follow when, following the ensuing operation, Frans finished up having a heart attack.

The Eastern Division Annual Meeting weekend was scheduled for the 5th and 6th of May, with the Isandlwana Installation on Friday night and the Eastern Division Meeting on the Saturday. Frans was outgoing Master of the Lodge and, of course, Provincial Grand Master. While, to our relief, he had made a remarkable recovery, he certainly couldn't attend the meetings.

There comes a time when the Deputy has to take over - and Wor Bro Basil de Kock did so with much distinction. On Friday night, he and his team installed Wor Bro Wayne Johnston as Master of Isandlwana with Wor Bro de Kock performing both the Installation and the Board of Installed Masters with aplomb.



Behind the Battle of Isandlwana bronze are RW Bros John Smith OSM, Dave Duncan OSM, Victor Muhlenbeck, Alf Brönnner and MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM.

The Friday night festive board was a very happy occasion and RW Bro Vic Muhlenbeck had borrowed a magnificent bronze depicting a scene from the Battle of Isandlwana which drew many admiring comments.

On the Saturday afternoon, Wor Bro de Kock took the Chair for the Eastern Division Annual Meeting and, once again, performed his work in an exemplary manner. While Eastern Division has its challenges, there were a number of successes recorded and the Division is cautiously optimistic about the plans for the year ahead.



During the course of the meeting the Grand Master, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, took the opportunity to present RW Bro Neville Klein OSM with his 50 Year Service Jewel. In reviewing Neville's



history, the Grand Master recalled a theme often propagated by MW Bro Ronnie Bauser OSM over 20 years ago. He used to compare Freemasons

with 1 year's experience 25 times in a row to 25 year Freemasons. The Grand Master described RW Bro Klein as a 50 year veteran who has far exceeded his quota. Today, of course, Neville is our dedicated Grand Almoner and performs the role with love and devotion.

Overall, the weekend was a most successful one and much enjoyed by all of those present.

RW Bro David Duncan OSM elected Grand Master

On Saturday 6th May the Grand Conclave met in Durban where they unanimously elected our new Grand Master, RW Bro David James Duncan OSM. RW Bro Duncan is an experienced Mason with an impressive track record. He spent several effective years as Provincial Grand Master of Northern Division before being appointed as an Assistant Grand Master in 2008. In 2014, he became Deputy Grand Master and has made a most significant contribution to implementing our new strategies. Dave remains active in both his Craft and Royal Arch Lodges and Chapters and has a reputation for setting goals and getting results.



The installation of our new Grand Master will take place at the Park Lane Temple in Johannesburg on Saturday 8th July. It will be followed by a Banquet at the Wanderers Club and tickets are available through the Grand Secretary's office at R400 per person. All Brethren are encouraged to support these events.

The Africa Conference and Ghana Installation

Once every 2 years the African Grand Lodges gather together for their Grand Masters and Secretaries Conference. It takes place on the Installation weekend of a selected member and this year, on the weekend from 11th to 14th May, it was Ghana's turn.

The Grand Lodge of Ghana was established in 2009 and we have grown close to them in what is really a short time. They are regular visitors to our Grand Lodge and Lodges and, when visiting them, you often meet Brethren who had met you in South Africa. This year the Grand Master was accompanied by the Grand Master Elect, RW Bro Dave Duncan OSM. We were well received and looked after and the whole experience proved an extremely enjoyable learning experience and PR exercise for both of us.

The Conference had 16 African Grand Lodges present, each with their own challenges to address. The various interactions were interesting, sometimes even fiery, but important issues were discussed.



The Grand Masters of Morocco, Mali, Ghana, Ivory Coast, South Africa and Mauritius.

On Friday afternoon, the visiting delegation heads were taken to meet the new President of Ghana while that evening the new Grand Master entertained them with an informal dinner at his home.

Saturday morning saw the Installation of the new Grand Master, MW Bro Kwadjo Butah, with our Grand Master taking part in the very well performed ceremony and being called on to respond to the welcome on behalf of the visiting delegations.

Saturday night was the Installation Banquet. It was well attended and the food and wine were excellent. Our Grand Master was called on to propose the Visitor's Toast to the Grand Lodge of Ghana.

On Sunday morning, there was a special Masonic Church Service to bless the new Grand Master and his Officers as they started on their journey.

The Church Service was followed by a really convivial lunch after which we were duly collected by Wor Bro Jonathan Lötter, a Past Master of Lodge Bellville who is living in Accra.



With MW Bro Kwadjo Butah

He showed us around the city before we joined him and his delightful wife Liezl for a braai. Finally, and in an exhausted state, we made our way to the airport and the overnight flight home.



The Grand Lodge of Ghana Senior Officers with the visiting delegations. The tall Brother on the right of the new Grand Master is RW Bro John Kufour, a greatly respected Past President of Ghana and a newly appointed Senior Warden of the UGLE.

The Installation of Lodge Libertas, No 16



Wor Bro Marius Mostert was installed into the Chair of King Solomon at a ceremony in the Halse Street Temple, Krugersdorp on Saturday 27 May 2017.

The Grand Lodge delegation was led by RW Bro D Duncan OSM, who was accompanied by 6 Grand Lodge Officers. He was received by the PGM, RW Bro A van der Vyver and 13 PGL Officers. The ceremony was conducted by the DPGM of the Division, VW Bro P Roos, who gave an exemplary

performance of the ritual. Wor Bro G Macintosh delivered the proclamation from the West.

The Officers of PGL acquitted themselves well and a most enjoyable afternoon was experienced. So much so, that several of the BB from the Sister Constitutions expressed congratulations on the warmth and professionalism of the ceremony.

The Lodge has had its share of opportunities over the past decade and is definitely on the road to its former glory. 53 BB were present at the meeting; including senior BB from the English and Scottish Constitutions. The retiring Master, Wor Bro Martin Kotze, reported on the past year.



He reflected that the Lodge is now a leading light on the West Rand and that it is attracting interest from new members. With two Apprentices and two Fellow Craft in the Lodge, the future looks sound.

Lodge during his years in the Order. We will miss him sorely.

It seems that with the onset of autumn and the change in the season, it is time for aches and illnesses to reassert themselves. Brethren who are experiencing opportunities at present are: Wor BB Billy Benadie, Corrie Grobbelaar and Rob le Roux (all of Losie Johan van Riebeeck); Wor Bro Ronnie Esau (Lodge de Goede Hoop); Wor Bro Jock Woods (Lodge Marina) and Wor Bro Eugene Rawstone (Lodge Dromedaris).

Of those previously reported, we are sad to reflect that VW Bro Swenny Crofton, VW Bro Kenny Manneveld and Wor Bro Eric Henkel are still under the weather. We wish them all a speedy recovery and hope that they will soon be able to re-join us at our labours.

The news of the errant PGM who was damaged by his toy, RW Bro Frans Roodt (Eastern Division), is making good progress, is now mobile and therefore no longer needing to keep a finger on the pulse of his Division from afar. Welcome back Frans!

Brethren, it is time for colds and flu and the strain expected this year could have serious complications if not tackled soonest. Take care and wrap up warmly.



The BB of Lodge Libertas

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



I have learned that, while our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, we are responsible for who we become!

Almoner's Corner

Our hearts and best wishes go out to the family and friends of Wor Bro Daan de Bruin, whom we lost to the Grand Lodge above during the month of May. Daan was a member of Lodge Orange in Rustenburg and a Past Grand Lodge Officer. He was a superb ritualist and mentored many of the Brethren of the



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Second Masonic Tour to Israel
"In the Footsteps of Freemasonry"

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