

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 130 November 2022



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSAI MSA.

Faith, Hope and Love

Faith in God, upright conduct and an understanding of the kinship of humanity are some of the attributes of a good and virtuous person. During the past year we have heard of and even been affected by climate change and extreme weather conditions, a war in eastern Europe, unrest in many parts of Africa and the middle East, threats from certain countries with nuclear capabilities, waste of natural resources, pollution, the destruction of natural landscapes and inconsiderate overbuilding. It seems that the people of our troubled World need to renew their faith, find hope for the future and express their love for each other.

Our faith is however only as good as what we have faith in. Freemasons believe in a Supreme Being and our faith in the GAOTU, our hope for the future and our love for each other should be constant and real. If we lose our faith, we lose hope. If we lose hope, we lose the capacity to love one another. Things may happen and situations may occur in our lives that shake our faith and overwhelm our minds and emotions. When this happens, we usually discover what we really believe in. Many people today however do not believe in any God or in the concept of a Creator and only have faith in themselves and place their hope in the assets which they possess.

Apart from Freemasonry, we are fortunate that there are persons like Dante Steward, a Baptist Pastor, who teaches people to forgive and to love each other. Rabbi Block preaches that every person is created in the divine image and that all persons should be free and equal. Reverend Angela Williams, a Presbyterian

pastor, promotes more love amongst all persons, justice over oppression and restriction and the right to life. Aasees Kaur, a Sikh civil rights activist, advocates that we are all innately equal and deserving of dignity. Qasim Rashid, a Muslim teacher states that Islam's founder established that all persons have two foundational obligations, namely to God and to humanity, which is the path to peace and justice.

To those who have or are experiencing certain difficulties in their life, let us hope that you have or will soon overcome them. To those who have or are experiencing certain struggles in their life, let us hope that they have improved and will soon pass. To those who have a good a comfortable life, let us hope that your generosity will enable you to share your good fortune with those who are not as fortunate as you are.

As we approach the end of the year and the coming festive season, let us respect our Christian Brethren's faith as they celebrate Christmas and our Jewish Brethren's faith as they celebrate Hanukkah. Although these are very different celebrations, they both commemorate miraculous events and have the theme of hope. The message of faith, hope and love is present in every aspect of Freemasonry, so let us promote this message as faith makes all things possible, hope makes all things work and love makes all things beautiful. For all its troubles and disappointments, for all its suffering and injustices, life still holds the possibility of peace and joy.

Freemasonry not only inculcates the principles of love and benevolence, it seeks to give them an actual and living presence. It not only feels, it acts; it not only pities human suffering, it relieves it and so I wish you all the gift of Faith, the blessing of Hope and the peace of the Love of the GAOTU. To those Christian Brethren and their families celebrating Christmas, a very blessed Christmas to you all. To those Brethren celebrating Hanukkah, may the lights of Hanukkah usher in a better world for all human kind. May the New Year be a very special one for all of us.

**MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA
Grand Master**

Grand Master's Christmas Message

As the year draws to a close, let us remember that Christmas is the season of love, joy and giving. At this time we remember the tenderness of the past, we embrace our courage for the present and we look with hope to the future. It has been well said that peace on earth will come to stay when we live Christmas every day. To all our Christian families, I wish you a blessed Christmas. To all our Brethren and their families, I hope your holiday season is full of peace and joy and I wish you all a very happy, healthy and safe new year.

Eastern Cape have plenty to Celebrate!

The Eastern Cape 2022 Annual Meeting was held in Port Elizabeth on Saturday 12 November - and what a memorable day it was. Over the previous



months, RW Bro Keith Hutton and his team had put a huge amount of work converting the Jewish synagogue which they had purchased into a Masonic Temple and the final result was absolutely magnificent.

On the Saturday morning we consecrated the building with the Grand Master, MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, and his team performing an excellent working. We then stopped for a light lunch.

We had a brief break for lunch and then it was the AGM. After the usual courtesies, RW Bro Hutton delivered a most encouraging Annual Report. He then installed his Officers for the year ahead. The PGL chain bearers are Deputy PGM, Wor Bro Ric Gillmer, with the Assistant PGMs Wor Bros Daniel Stander, Paul West and James Lidderd. Overall it's an excellent team and inspires confidence for the coming year.



The Grand Master (2L), with Ric, Paul and Daniel

RW Bro Hutton then thanked the Grand Master who, after a few inspiring words, proceeded to recognise 2 exceptional Freemasons. The first was Wor Bro Hylke Jorritsma who had now qualified for a



60 year service jewel. Hylke is well into his 80s but is still very able to look after himself and recounted his Masonic experiences with a great deal of enthusiasm. I'm always enchanted by our veterans and thank the

GAOTU for the foundations that they have laid.

MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA then advised

that, after due consideration, he had decided to award **RW Bro Keith Hutton** an **OSM** for his Outstanding Service to Masonry. Keith has now been the PGM of



Eastern Cape for 6 years. He took over a Division in some disarray and, under his direction, it has gained a new life. He has consecrated 3 new Lodges, being Tolerance, Sonheuwel and Jeffrey's Bay and has relocated Lodge de Vereeniging from Graaf Reinet to Port Alfred. He has also, of course, found the Division a new home and set the example as they refurbished it for Masonic use. Above all, he has created a happy and effective team who really enjoy their Masonry.

The day finished with a relaxing dinner at the Beach Hotel. The camaraderie was excellent, the food was well prepared and the evening much enjoyed by all fortunate enough to be there. A highlight was having the Grand Master cutting a truly magnificent birthday cake which had been made especially for him by Lindie Liddard. What a special weekend!



RA Chapter Mutual's successful Installation

On Monday 21 November MEC Frank Begot was reinstalled as the MEZ of Chapter Mutual. 1st Grand Principal MEC John Smith OSM MSA and Grand Superintendent MEC Mahmoud Patel were in attendance.



*Back: MEC John Smith OSM MSA; MEC Mahmoud Patel;
Front: MEC Avron Jacobson MSA; MEC Frank Begot;
EC Stephane Rogovsky*

Northern Appoint 2 new Chains

On Monday 5 December RW Bro Simon Nash took advantage of the Koh-I-Noor Installation to obligate and invest Wor Bro Marius Mostert as his Deputy PGM and Wikus van Zyl as Assistant PGM.



Both Brethren have excelled in their work for the Provincial Grand Lodge and, as RW Bro Nash observes, should make a real difference going forward.

Koh-I-Noor Install Wor Bro Samuel Zwane

On Monday 5 December Lodge Koh-I-Noor had their Annual Installation and Wor Bro Samuel Zwane is the new Master.23.

The PGL team were led by the PGM, RW Bro Simon Nash, with Grand Lodge led by Assistant GM, RW Bro Godfrey Place,

Retiring Master, Wor Bro C-J Cornelius gave a comprehensive Annual Report. Wor Bro Achille Katumbay and the PGL team then performed the Installation, while RW Bro Simon Nash performed the Board of Installed Masters.



Overall, it was an evening very well spent.

AASR Koh-I-Noor conduct our 1st 14th Degree

The AASR is an exciting part of South African Freemasonry and has been from our earliest days. It still, however, looks to explore new rituals and ideas.



On Monday 21 November Chapter Koh-I-Noor had a 14th Degree working with Ven Bro Fritz Ganz as the candidate. M Ill Bro Brandon Topham was in the Chair, with M Ill Bro Reuven Coenen, the Northern ESGIG, also in attendance. It was a great success!

The GLSA "Training the Mentor" Program

In days gone by, the more senior Past Masters were generally considered to be the "Mentors". While some of them were really good at it, others weren't. They were either lacking in energy or, in too many cases, simply didn't have the appropriate knowledge.

With our new "Training the Mentor" program, any Master Mason who possesses the necessary commitment and enthusiasm can be a Mentor. Our Program will tell him exactly what he is expected to do and where to find the material. GrandView caters for



every new Initiate to be allocated his own personal Mentor and it's the Mentor's job to see that the new Apprentice enjoys the Quality experience that we are so keen to provide. An added benefit is that both the Mentor and the Mentee will grow Masonically as they follow the process.

The "Training the Mentor" program will be launched over the next few days. Take advantage of it!

Northern Division are still Walking Tall

For the past 7 years, Northern Division has supported the Walking Tall with Pride feeding scheme which gives a nourishing meal to some 150 destitute people on a weekly basis. The project is backed by the Northern PGM, RW Bro Simon Nash, and his team, while Eric and Pauline Houniet (Prins Frederik) play a very active role. This year the Lodge's WM, RW Bro Godfrey Place, incited the other Lodges in the Division to join him in raising funds to provide Food Hampers to the recipients as well. The Lodges involved were so generous that there was enough money to include other initiatives!



Lodges support Magersfontein Marathon

We were delighted to hear that, at the recent running of the Magersfontein Marathon, our Kimberley Lodges Peace and Harmony and Magersfontein, stepped forward to man watering points. Wor Bro Francois Dauth and his team did Freemasonry proud with their signage and Banners promoting the Order. Well done Brethren – keep up the good work.



Almoner's Report

The least enjoyable part of compiling our Newsletter is having to report on departed Brethren. This month 2 Brethren have gone to the Eternal East.

Wor Bro Neil MacKechnie (Hiram) was a 50 year veteran who, despite not being able to attend any more, never lost his interest in and commitment to his Lodge. Our condolences to his family and close ones.

We were horrified by the news regarding the passing of Bro Wayne van Zyl (Star of the West). He was the Fellowcraft son of RW Bro Cor van Zyl and had his whole life ahead of him. We do not have words to adequately express our sympathy to the family and pray that the GAOTU will help them at this awful time.

Wor Bro Eric Scholtz (Theophilus) is still in ICU and has a tough fight ahead of him. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

To all Brethren and their families who are facing personal challenges, you are in our prayers.

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please share it with your Divisional Almoner.

Southern Wor Bro Cobis Wilson	083 2844684
Northern Wor Bro Kevin Smith	082 8883890
Central Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern Wor Bro Andrew Pover	084 2597108
E Cape Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

Set your 2023 plans to “Balance” your Lodge

Undoubtedly the most innovative GLSA offering of 2022 is the Balanced Lodge program initiated by Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Brandon Topham. The way that it works is that, on a monthly basis, the reigning Worshipful Master of each of our Lodges completes a five minute Questionnaire covering all the aspects of his Lodge's activities. These encompass Attendance, Ritual, Workings, Membership, Charity, Social, Administration and similar aspects which an effective Lodge needs to practice properly to be “Balanced” and able to provide the highest possible quality Masonic experience to all of its members.



While there is a competitive inter-Lodge element and we will take this more seriously in 2023, the program is more about identifying areas for a Lodge to work on. Our Lodge, for example, reviews the Questionnaire at our BoM and we then set our plans to address areas needing attention.

The Balanced Lodge program isn't a nice to have, it's a necessity! Please make certain that your Lodge is taking best advantage of it in 2023.

RA Chapter Johannes Truter in Worcester has an annual tradition of performing an Excellent Master



working every December. The evening is extremely festive and is much enjoyed by all who attend it.

In the front row are MECs:
 Avron Jacobson MSA
 (Deputy 1st Grand Principal)
 John Smith OSM MSA
 (1st Grand Principal)
 Hylton Oates
 (Most Excellent Zerubabel)
 Mahmoud Patel
 (Grand Superintendent SD)
 Louis van der Linde

Lodge **Royal Protea** in East London recently re-installed Wor Bro Mark Hiles as their Worshipful Master. He is seen here with RW Bro Keith Hutton OSM (3L), Wor Bro Ric Gillmer (5L) and the rest of the Brethren.

