

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 94 November 2019



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

## Journey or Destination?

As leaders of the Craft, we often pose the above question. The reason for this is in an attempt to reveal one of the true intentions of the Order.

It is a simple context through which we can facilitate the Member to think about what he is experiencing, what he wants to experience and where it fits into the greater scheme of things in his life.

Whilst our Masonic literature explains the journey of Freemasonry as a personal voyage to self-knowledge, we still have some who treat it as a race. “How long will it take to become a Master Mason?” is often heard in the formative years of a young Brother. “Why are some Brethren going through their Degrees quickly and I have to wait?”

Our Constitution allows a Brother to elevate from Initiate to Master Mason in 6 months. Why should a Brother not therefore avail himself of this opportunity? Why does his Mentor make him wait, whilst others are seen to “progress”?

The answer lies in the personal definition of “progress” and differs from member to member. Some just want the Master Mason’s certificate in order to be able to wear a ring, give the handshake and connect with other Masons for selfish motives. Fortunately, these Brethren are relatively few and soon find out that their lack of knowledge of the Order becomes a major embarrassment to them. The good Brethren they are trying to connect with, soon recognise them for what

they are and tend to avoid them. It is not about calling yourself a “Master Mason”, it is about living like one!

It is also in our Constitution that a Brother must prove his proficiency before he is elevated to the next Degree. It is essential that he creates a solid platform upon which to build his personality through his Masonic experience, and failing to do so will see him disillusioned and leaving the Order. Do 4 meetings, one being his initiation, qualify him to become a Fellowcraft and then likewise, another 3 meetings to become Master Mason? In the days of our formation, some 300 years ago, an Apprentice Stone Mason served 7 years of full-time endeavour before he was entrusted with any decision-making authority. Now it is 7 months of part-time attendance. Have we lost the plot?

As many will know, there is a part in the ceremony of passing where the Apprentice is congratulated on his progress; is this a lie? Sadly; in many cases it is.

The principles and tenets of Freemasonry have been well tried and tested throughout the centuries and found to be worthy. We believe that they are still as relevant today as they were then. But how can an understanding of them be acquired in so short a time as 6 months? Some of us have spent decades trying to live those principles and still don’t claim to fully understand them. Has our vision of the measure of “proficiency” become so blurred that we do not care anymore? Have 7 meetings now become enough to be a Freemason?

Proficiency has to be measured in terms of an understanding of Freemasonry and not just by the efflux of time. Many Lodges are encouraging their younger Brethren to write a paper before they are allowed to progress, thus demonstrating that they are starting to understand and question the meaning of Freemasonry and showing that they have acquired the thought processes that will enable them to benefit from their journey of discovery. The discovery of a mental state in which they can develop themselves. A realm where ego is subdued and brotherly love promoted. Where kindness and tolerance replace bitterness and reproach. Where a good word is always given about a Brother and when there is nothing good to say, silence is respected.

It may sound idealistic and maybe I am an idealist; but, for me, this is what Freemasonry is all about. It is what we must strive to achieve in all our interactions. It is about learning to understand ourselves in such a way that we can correct that which in us, in a moral sense, is undesirable. Of creating in ourselves someone who will be respected as a force for good in our personal environment and role model for the generation to come.

In this way, Freemasonry will make a difference.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM  
Grand Master**





*The Grand Master of the GLSA, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM (c), the First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Africa, MEC Johan Britz (41), and the senior GLSA RA Officers, with the various international visitors.*

### Royal Arch Jubilee Celebrations

The weekend of Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September saw the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Africa hold its 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee celebrations in Cape Town's historic de Goede Hoop Temple. In keeping with the importance of this historic event, the weekend attracted visitors from all over South Africa as well as special guests from African and European Grand Chapters.

Europe was represented by the head of the RA in the Netherlands, MEC Adrianus van Dooren, whose eloquent contributions made a real difference to our celebrations, while the African delegations were led by MEC Amoni Deladem (Gabon), MEC Benoit Kouassi (Benin) and MEC Bernard Neuhaus (Mauritius).

On Friday night the various visiting delegations assembled in front of the Figure of Silence and, as is the tradition, greetings were exchanged and gifts were presented. In this picture, Benin's MEC Benoit Kouassi is greeted by MEC Johan Britz. After the "meet and greet", we all moved through to the refectory and joined the ladies and the Brethren for a most convivial cocktail party.



Saturday was, of course, the day for the formal activities and after MEC Dawie van Rooyen and his team had delivered an impressive Southern Division AGM, a special "Celebration" working was performed with MEC Johan Britz really excelling in the chair. The ritual had been written by MEC John Smith OSM MSA and it really did a superb job of showcasing our Royal Arch.

The First Grand Principle, this time more formally, greeted our illustrious visitors and then awarded the Grand Scribe E, MEC Avron Jacobson, with a coveted MSA for his contribution to Royal Arch Masonry.



On Saturday evening we had a banquet in the de Goede Hoop refectory and all those who attended agreed that the jubilee weekend had not only been a great success but was also a thoroughly enjoyable one.



To view all the pictures, click on [RA Jubilee Pictures](#)





### Parys Installation (CD)

The Parys Installation took place on Saturday 5 October. It was a Grand Lodge call-out led by MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM. PGM, RW Bro Cor van Zyl, led PGL and they re-installed Wor Bro Donovan le Roux as Worshipful Master. After a very successful first year in office, there is great optimism that Wor Bro le Roux will take the Lodge to even greater heights in the year ahead.

At the end of the ceremony, RW Bro Cor van Zyl announced that, due to personal pressures, he would be standing down as the Central PGM. VW Bro Frans Appelgryn will act as the PGM for the balance of the year.

### de Goede Verwachting Installation (SD)

Wor Bro Anthony van Dijk was reinstalled as Lodge de Goede Verwachting's Worshipful Master on Thursday 17 October. While the Lodge had been through a challenging year, they are held in high regard in Southern Division and there is a strong expectation that the new year will see things get back to normal -with the emphasis on Masonic education.

MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM led Grand Lodge, while Wor Bro Dennis Benadie, Deputy PGM, led the PGL team and performed the Installation. He was assisted by Wor Bro Jan Venter, Assistant PGM.



### MW Pretorius Installation (ND)

On Wednesday 23 October, VW Bro Rex Ingle was installed as the new Master of MW Pretorius. His predecessor, Wor Bro Tony Bosman had presented an excellent report and would be a hard act to follow. Grand Lodge were led by RW Bro Alf Brönnner, while PGL were led by Wor Bro Simon Nash and he performed the Installation. It was an excellent working and the festive board was much enjoyed by all in attendance.

### Jacob de Mist Installation (SD)

Monday 7 October saw RW Bro Tommy Hardiman installing Wor Bro Hein van Rensburg as the new Worshipful Master of Jacob de Mist. RW Bro John Smith OSM MSA led the Grand Lodge delegation.

The outgoing Master, Wor Bro Martin Slabbert, had presented an excellent valedictory report and had put the Lodge on the map with his considerable number of visits to Lodges in all Constitutions.

With the PGM, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, doing the installation himself, it was of a very high standard and the Provincial team supported him well. The festive board was most enjoyable and the Lodge has every reason to feel optimistic about the year ahead.







### Chapter Horeb RA Installation

Chapter Horeb's installation took place in the Krugersdorp Temple. The 3 Principals are MEC Brian Masencamp, EC Tony Bosman and MEC Hennie Kotze.

The Installation was executed by MEC Martin Kotze in English and Afrikaans, assisted by officers of PG Chapter ND. The after board was of the highest standard.

### Almoner's Corner

Wor Bro Louis Le Grange (MW Pretorius) was called to the Eternal East on 1 October 2019. Our thoughts are with the loved ones left behind.

Wor Bro Jock Wood (Marina) recently had a mild stroke and is making steady progress.

Wor Bro Hennie Kotze and Bro Koos Breedts (both of MW Pretorius) are both at home recuperating.

Wor Bro Rocky Smith (Sonop) is also now at home and steadily recovering from his recent illness.

Star of the East has Wor Bro Wayne Hunt's daughter recovering from her recent illness and Bro Alan Smith's mother recovering from a broken hip.

AJ Haak has stalwarts Wor Bro Fred Kitching and Wor Bro Frik Brits both recovering from recent medical procedures. Wor Bro Frik Brits' wife, Erna, was also recently admitted to ICU but is now recovering.

Wor Bro Marius Mostert (Libertas) and his wife Angela have been blessed with the birth of their first son.

Wor Bro Ron Kessler (de Goede Hoop) continues fighting health challenges and is in and out of hospital.

Prins Frederik's Bro Gavin Brown's wife is experiencing continual health problems

Wor Bro Nowellyn van Vuuren (Tolerance) recently suffered a mild heart attack.

Wor Bro Johan Kruger (Tolerance) is battling with water retention along with his chronic arthritis.

Please keep all of our Brethren and their families who are in difficulties in your thoughts and prayers.

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please ensure that your Divisional Almoner is aware of him:

Southern	Wor Bro Llew Lloyd-Jones	072 9653572
Northern	Wor Bro Reuven Coenen	071 6120577
Central	Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern	Wor Bro Johan v d Merwe	083 3010219
E Cape	Wor Bro Roy Handley	082 8625804

### GLSA Brethren excel in Ritual Challenge

Cape Town's Lodge Unity (Scottish) have an annual Ritual Excellence competition. Brethren from the different Constitutions attend and present a piece of their Constitution's ritual to a panel of judges.

This year saw 2 GLSA Brethren sharing 1<sup>st</sup> place,



Bro Al'Oret Pukuta (Westerford) with the Catechism Answers in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree and MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM with the Emblems of Mortality.

Bro Mark Collins (de Goede Verwachting) took 3<sup>rd</sup> place with his delivery of the Figure of Silence.

On a lighter note, the de Goede Trouw sextet were awarded 4<sup>th</sup> place for their truly awful rendition of "Come braai with me" sung to the tune of Abide with Me.

### Friendship Installation

Friendship's installation took place on 23 October at the Orange Grove Complex. The installation was well executed by APMG Wor Bro Tony Bosman in spite of it being his first installation. The evening was also graced by the presence of Brethren from the Grand Lodge of Gabon. In our picture, Wor Bro Stephane Mabiala (WM)



and the Wardens of Lodge Friendship are seen together with VW Bro Charles Cisse Rekaty and RW Bro Ludovic Ibandou, both of the Grand Lodge of Gabon.

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