

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 101 June 2020



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

What Now?

"Never let a good crisis go to waste" has been attributed to **Winston Churchill** in reference to the conditions post the Second World War that allowed for the formation of the United Nations.

Is it time to reflect on this statement?

Right now many people are comparing our current position to a war zone and suggest that the aftermath of the inevitable victory over Covid-19 will lead us to a social and economic environment that will be vastly different to that which we knew in 2019. Just as the dreadful carnage of World War II led to a unification of mankind in the formation of the United Nations, many believe that the Covid-19 pandemic will lead to a new philosophy to be adopted by Nations around the world.

Economic activity will return and prosperity for many will again create opportunities, but will we be able to grasp them? Will we be able to use the experience gained during the first half of 2020 to change our outlook in order to take advantage of the opportunities revealed in the new environment.

Will our Lodges ever be the same? Will we return to the same format as before? If we try, will our members accept this without question, or will we have to learn from the lessons of lockdown and adapt to a new way of working to promote our longevity.

Most of our Lodges have risen to the challenge and have continued to work during the lockdown. They are to be congratulated on their efforts and ingenuity. Brethren who have not been regular attendees at

meetings are, once again, contributing to the activities of the Lodge. Interest has been revived and facilitated.

Is it time to review our relevance in the community that we should be serving? Are we seen to be the "*force for good*" that we profess to be? Sadly, I fear that, in many cases, the answer to this one is NO. But we can change and grasp an opportunity. My request to the Lodges for funds in order to make a collective donation on behalf of all of the Brethren of the Grand Lodge seems to be gathering momentum.

I sincerely thank each Brother who has risen to the challenge. I know that some individual Lodges are making fantastic efforts to support their Divisions and local communities and this outpouring of Brotherly Love to persons less fortunate than ourselves is to be commended. The purpose is noble and the results are most appreciated by the recipients. But we, as a recognisable Organisation draw no benefit from it. As a Brother, I also do not look for accolades for my charitable works. As an Order, however, is it not the time to start thinking at a higher level with our benevolent activities and to work on well-defined and specific projects that have the visibility to raise our image in the community at large.

We want to make "*good men better*" and "*to make a difference*", but for this we need resources and manpower. If the growth of our Order was truly based on this promise, coupled with the enthusiastic practice of our basic precepts, would we not be more likely to become the "*force for good*" that we desire to be?

The experiences and tragedies of Covid-19 have plunged the country into crisis and the general atmosphere is one of sadness and fear. We have a choice. We can sit and lament the negatives or we can prepare for the positives to be employed when we emerge from the crisis. As Winston Churchill knew, the time for the acceptance of rapid change is under a crisis, in which all of the "*old*" ways of thinking are being challenged. The "*nay-sayers*" no longer command the high ground and ideas to promote change for the better find the fertile ground in which to flourish. Is it time for us to apply our minds as to just exactly what our Lodge should look like after the crisis is over?

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master**

Adversity
introduces a
man to
himself.

Albert Einstein

S&C's 8 year Journey - Continued!

The Square and Compasses was launched in August 2012 and, to commemorate this, we are having a "lockdown" series, recalling memories from earlier issues. We hope that you enjoy them.

Lodge Isandlwana, our first "military" Lodge, decided to introduce their own tartan. It was registered and certified, a batch of the material was woven and the first kilts produced. RW Bro Vic Muhlenbeck is seen here wearing his kilt on its first public showing in March 2014. With him is VW Bro "Spud" Keane-Murphy, who sadly was called to the Grand Lodge above shortly afterwards.



The Grand Master, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, attended the Installation of the new Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Nationale de Francaise in November 2015. This special weekend had over 100 Grand Lodges in attendance. MW Bro Edwards is pictured with the French Grand Master, MW Bro Jean-Pierre Servel.



In early November 2015, Lodges Bultfontein and Central Free State had a "bleed off."

Wor Bros James Meyer, and Jack Coetzee were dressed up as "prisoners" for the day. They were arrested, loaded into a police van and taken to "prison" - being a tent at the local flea market set up for the occasion.



Their "release" depended on the units of blood donated to the local blood bank (SANBS) by members of the public rounded up by the Freemasons. All previous records were shattered!

The Grand Master regularly observed that "every candidate deserved a quality experience". In response, the Ritual Excellence Program was launched and its success was largely due to the efforts of RW Bro Alan van der Vyver.



The program allows Brethren to earn points for presentation of charges and to work towards lapel buttons and jewels, in recognition of their success.



It has been well said that a "Lodge that plays together, stays together" and we usually find that our more successful Lodges have an active social program that involves the Brethren and their families.

Every now and then, however, the "boys" take some time off to let their hair down and bond the only way that guys can, especially when sharing a weekend in the bush – as did Libertas in November 2015.

For some time now Southern Division have marshalled at events such as the Cape Cycle Tour and Cape Town Marathon. These are great fund-raisers - and a whole lot of fun. Wor Bro Dan Korn and RW Bro Morris Rozen are seen at the 2016 Cycle Tour.



In April 2016, the AASR for South Africa held its AGM at the Sunnyside Park Hotel in Johannesburg. The following day saw several new ESGGs installed.



The new ESGIGs M Ill Bros Cor van Zyl, Louis Wolsink, Frans Roodt, Geoff Edwards with Boet du Plessis and Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Piet Coetzee.

Southern Division's 2016 Lodge awards went to de Goede Hoop (Lodge of the Year), Westerford (Ritual), Jacob de Mist (Charity) while de Goede Verwachting were recognised as the Emerging Lodge.



The reigning Master of de Goede Hoop, Wor Bro Frank Begot, is seen here receiving the Lodge of the Year trophy from PGM, RW Bro Avron Jacobson.

Overall, the PGM was more than happy with his Division.



In May 2016, the Grand Master visited Burkina Faso for the installation of their new Grand Master, MW Bro Roger Coefy. During the course of an interesting weekend, new friendships were forged and our status as a valued member of the African Masonic community was further cemented.

The Eastern Division AGM was held in May 2016 and the PGM, RW Bro Frans Roodt, and his team made sure that all of the visitors were made to feel most welcome. After a successful meeting we all attended a dinner at the Durban Club. Christine and Wor Bro Rodney Schreuder were seen amongst the guests.



In May 2016, Lodge Westerford installed their new Master, Wor Bro Graham Symons. He was Installed by Wor Bro Evangelos Doucas, with the Board of Installed Masters attended to by Wor Bro Louis van der Linde.



Wor Bros van der Linde, Symons, Hardiman and Doucas

June 2016 saw the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter Northern Division install M Ex Comp Martin Kotze as their new Grand Superintendent. While he realised that his new role would have its challenges, M Ex Comp Kotze felt that the new spirit of support being offered by Grand Lodge would make a very real difference and thanked the Grand Master accordingly.



In July 2016, Northern Division held their AGM at the Park Lane Temple. RW Bro Alan van der Vyver reported on a generally successful year and thanked his Officers for the very high standard that they had set. As part of his new team he invested Wor Bro Ini Akpan as an Assistant PGM and is seen here wishing him well.



RW Bro van der Vyver also presented 2 exceptional service awards. Wor Bro Marius Mostert was Presiding Master of the Year and RW Bro Nuno Calvet was selected as the Mason of the Year.

In September 2016 Lodges Friendship and Star of the Rand took part in the Round Table Bed Race at the Zwartkops Raceway in Pretoria. Friendship manned the gate and Star of the Rand "drove" a bed. Preparing to go to bed, Wor Bro Simon Nash is seen with the Masonic Mean Machine!



Saturday 17 September 2016 saw our Royal Arch holding its Annual Convocation in Cape Town.

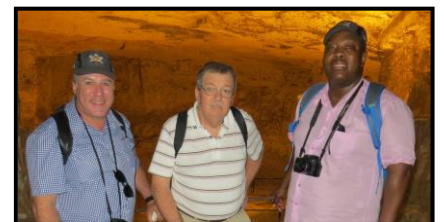


The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Officers. The M Ex Comps in front are John Smith (Dep 1st G P), Graham Sumner (2nd G P), Johan Britz (1st G P), Geoff Edwards (Grand Master), Bernard Neuhaus (3rd G P), Alf Rhoodie (Past 1st G P).

In September 2016 the Grand Master was in Lisbon for the GL of Portugal's 25 year celebration. Numerous GLs were present and it was an inspiring and valuable weekend. MW Bro Avi Baranes (Israel) is seen here with MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM.



The exceptional Masonic Tour of Israel was also in September and we visited too many special places to detail. Here are



RW Bro Avron Jacobson, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM and Bro Thobani Popo in Solomon's Quarries.

At the 2016 Spring Ball, PGMs Northern, RW Bro Alan van der Vyver, and newly installed Southern, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman



Also seen at the extremely successful Spring Ball - Wor Bro Frans Appelgryn and his daughter, Tanya, both of whom came down from Bloemfontein.

Congratulations Dr Jan-Louis Raath!



Central Division advised us that Bro Jan-Louis Raath (Parys) had completed his PhD in Space Physics. His thesis was “A stochastic approach to the modelling of cosmic rays in the heliosphere”. His Facebook post on hearing the news says it all –

“Ek het gister officieel my doktorsgraad in fisika gekry. Dit was 'n lang harde pad vol sweet, tranes en met tye amper bloed ook. Ek wil net vir al my familie, broers in Vrymesselary en vriende sê baie dankie vir die ondersteuning gedurende hierdie tyd. Dit was 'n spanpoging!”

Doctor Jan-Louis, we are proud to call you Brother.

Almoner's Corner

It was with much sadness that we heard of the passing of RW Bro Barry Johnson (Prins Frederik). He was a dedicated Mason who had served our Grand Lodge for over 50 years, several of which had been as our Grand Secretary. Our sympathies are extended to his wife and family at this extremely difficult time

It was also extremely sad to receive the news of the passing of Cynthia Spies, the wife of Wor Bro Ben Spies (Sonop). Cynthia was a beautiful person who made an enormous contribution to our Masonic lives. She will be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with Oom Bennie and the family as they face life without Cynthia being there.

Wor Bro Hannes Jonker (Prins Frederik) had a stroke in early May. He is indefatigable, however, and still tries to get into all the Lodge online meetings. We love and admire you Hannes – but look after yourself!

Bro Sonwabo Zide is slowly but steadily recovering from the complications related to his neck tumour. Despite everything, he remains positive.

Bro Brandon Lock (Libertas) has been having some heart issues but seems to be making steady progress.

Wor Bro Louis van der Linde (Jacob de Mist) had a triple hernia operation. He is still experiencing some pain but is otherwise sounding very chirpy!

Wor Bro Giuseppe Ricci (de Goede Trouw) is recovering after his recent knee operation. He has also been diagnosed with prostate cancer but the doctor assures him that they've caught it encouragingly early.

Wor Bro Andre Germishuys (de Goede Hoop) has been back to hospital, this time to fuse some nerves in his back. It takes more than that to keep Andre down though and all he wants is to get back to Lodge. His face, incidentally, is healing steadily.

All of our previously reported Covid-19 cases are progressing well and we are delighted to be able to report that no new cases have been identified. Keep yourselves and your families safe, Brethren, Covid-19 really isn't something that we should mess around with.

You are once again reminded of our older Brethren at this difficult and, all too often, lonely time. A number of our Lodges have implemented contact programs for them with regular phone-calls taking place. Please make certain that this includes your Lodge. Our Brethren need us right now and simply caring is invaluable.

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 Reuven Coenen	071 6120577
Central Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern Wor Bro Johan v d Merwe	083 3010219
E Cape Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

Grand Master's Fund Achieves R250,000!



Our Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, decided that the GLSA needed to do something special to try to assist those suffering from the broader impact of Covid-19. People are starving, are destitute and are helpless – and we needed to offer some support.

He duly set us a target of R250,000 and we are delighted to announce that this has been achieved with donations from:

Northern Division	R63,000
Southern Division	R50,000
AASR of South Africa	R25,000
Central Division	R25,000
Eastern Cape Division	R14,500
Royal Arch Supreme	R10,000
Eastern Division	R10,000
Red Cross of Constantine	R10,000
Grand Lodge	R42,500
TOTAL	R250,000

Several of the Divisions and Lodges have also been providing levels of assistance independently and this amount was over and above any other charity efforts.

The Grand Master is now working, together with the Grand Committee, to determine how best to distribute the amount that we have raised. MW Bro Duncan is keen to ensure that it assists those in need as much as is possible, while also promoting the importance of charity as part of our Masonic lives.

Introducing the Red Cross of Constantine

The Red Cross of Constantine, (Southern Cross Council) who so generously donated R10,000 to the Grand Master's Covid-19 fund, are an appendant degree linked to the Scottish Constitution. Their full name is “**Imperial Conclave of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and The Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and St John the Evangelist.**”



All active Craft and Royal Arch Masons in good standing and having a belief in the Christian faith are qualified to become, on invitation, a member of the Order. The moral teachings of the Order are based upon the legendary influences that Christianity had upon the life of Constantine the Great, which culminated in his being baptised into the faith shortly before his death in 337 A.D.