

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 108 January 2021



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSM MSA.

Patience is a Virtue!

In December last year we optimistically announced that, subject to Covid restrictions, we intended to re-open our lodges in February. As a result of the increased infections, hospitalisations and deaths caused by the Corona virus the President declared in January that the country would revert to stage 3 lockdown, which prohibits any social gatherings. As all Lodge meetings fall under this restriction, we were unfortunately compelled to issue a notice on 20 January 2021 in this regard. This means that all physical Lodge meetings are not yet permitted. We will, however, continue to monitor the situation as we are committed and motivated to recommence with our normal Masonic labours as soon as it is possible to do so.

The Roman soldier, scholar and historian, Cato the Elder, was the author of a collection of proverbial wisdom and morality and wrote: *Of human virtues, patience is the most great.* In the 5th century Prudentius wrote a poem describing the conflict between vice and virtue and therein he highlights patience as a virtue or a state of moral excellence. In the 1300s William Langland, an English poet, wrote the poem *Piers Plowman* which is about a man in search of faith and therein he states that *patience is a fair virtue.* The Volume of the Sacred Law refers to the fruit of the Spirit as being love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. It also states that love is patient and kind and if we hope for what we cannot see, we must wait for it with patience. Angus Buchan, a farmer and well known South African

evangelist, often refers to the patience of farmers who wait for rain, for their crops to grow or for their livestock to produce offspring.

Patience (*geduld*) is defined in the bilingual dictionary as forbearance (*verdraagsaamheid*), perseverance (*volharding*) and long suffering (*lydsaamheid*). Patience is a person's ability to calmly wait for something or to endure something tedious without becoming annoyed. Google defines patience as the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble and suffering without becoming angry or losing hope.

It is our aim to build a multi-cultural brotherhood of good men who practice brotherly love, charity and truth and who are united in the enhancement of wisdom, high moral standards and justice for all persons. We believe that the strict adherence to these principles will inculcate the duties of loyalty, good citizenship and family values in our members and will promote reconciliation between and mutual respect of all persons. Although our Masonic rituals and ceremonies do not deal specifically with patience and although it often goes against our instincts, it is now more important than ever that we should cultivate and exercise patience in our modern World as it is the pause that helps us to get our thoughts in order and our feelings under control. It helps us to focus on long term goals and allows us to make rational decisions. It builds persistence and is, in itself, an exercise in self-control.

While the Covid Pandemic has and is still testing our patience, we must continue to exercise patience in our homes, in our businesses and with our Brethren. Let us also continue to practice brotherly love, which is not only the love for each other, but for all persons in the World. Let us continue to practice charity, which is not only aid to fellow Freemasons but to all who are less fortunate than we are. Let us continue to seek for and express the truth, which is based on morality and the salvation of every man's soul as determined by his personal relationship with his Creator and let us continue to pray that we will soon be able to return to our normal Masonic labours. Let us exercise patience in the present lockdown for a moment of patience when feeling anger will save a hundred moments of regret.

MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA
Grand Master

**In the midst of adversity and
great distress, the solution I
always found was to go on living.
— Marty Rubin**

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DEMOLAY

INTERNATIONAL

JURISDICTION OF SOUTH AFRICA

If you follow World Freemasonry, you will surely be familiar with DeMolay. This organisation focuses on young people and teaches them basic Masonic precepts and leadership skills in a manner that they can relate to. Thanks to MP Bro Boet du Plessis and his AASR team, it is now being introduced in South Africa.

After discussions and motivations, the GLSA under Grand Master, MW Bro. John Smith OSM MSA, confirmed that they fully supported the DeMolay initiative of the AASR of South Africa and advised the Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Boet du Plessis



33° MA, that they would assist him and cooperate with the AASR of South Africa in every way possible to ensure success.

DeMolay is an International leadership building platform for the youth. While it is meant to benefit society as a whole, it also makes a real contribution to

young leaders joining the Order of Freemasonry.

The basic process starts with the selection of 3 Master Masons in good standing, with high moral and ethical values complimented with leadership skills and with the ability to work with the youth. These Brethren are then subjected to stringent International background verification checks before they are recognised by DeMolay International as Advisory candidates. Having been verified, they complete the online training course and the related examination before final appointment.

MP Bro du Plessis has identified 2 of the AASR for South Africa's senior Brethren who, along with him, will constitute the first DeMolay Advisory Council for South Africa. M III Bro Brandon Topham 33°, is also the Deputy Grand Master of the GLSA and M III Bro Martin Kotze 33°, is well known to all as a GLSA Grand Lodge Officer and a respected senior member of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter.



Brandon, Boet and Martin with the DeMolay certification

Boet is justifiably proud and honoured to have played the role of initiator and to just be a part of this historic initiative. He has no doubt that it will bring much credit to our Supreme Council and be to the benefit of South African Freemasonry in general.

The Supreme Council for South Africa have now received from the DeMolay International Grand Master, Marc B Bohn, authorisation as the Advisory Council leadership to establish DeMolay Chapters throughout South Africa. The first will be the Ben Lindeque Chapter, which will be established in Johannesburg.

The challenge is to turn ordinary young people into future leaders of our country, so that they may play their part in shaping the future in all sectors of society, the corporate world and Freemasonry. Boet is confident that the members of the Advisory Council have all the human attributes and skills to ensure that the DeMolay Chapters established in South Africa, will live up to their mandate and significantly enhance the more than 3 million DeMolay members around the world.

Let us be reminded that while there are many names and stories surrounding Freemasonry, the one about the last leader of the Knights Templar is a special one. His name was Jacques DeMolay. Here was a true hero who was a martyr to fidelity and tolerance. Here was a great example of loyalty and of courage. Here was a man who truly practised knighthood and chivalry.

M III Bro Brandon Topham 33° will head our Advisory Council and we wish him and his team great success in all their endeavours.

In the words of Albert Pike "What we do for ourselves alone dies with us; what we do for others and the world remains and is immortal".

MW Pretorius and the Rotalia Centre

In 2019, Lodge MW Pretorius in Carletonville, adopted the Rotalia Centre for the Mentally Disabled as their charity project. 2020 fundraising plans were, however, negatively impacted by the Covid pandemic. Despite this, the members of the Lodge did not forget the commitment they made to Rotalia. Although having supported other charitable initiatives at both PGL and Grand Lodge levels, MW Pretorius still contributed to Rotalia by donating both funds and goods. A Christmas Hamper project raised a sum of R3,800 and this was donated in full to Rotalia. Along with this was a substantial donation from Ana and Tony Bosman of bedding, towels and other items for use in the centre.

Our Deputy GM, RW Bro Brandon Topham, generously donated a Christmas Hamper, to Rotalia and requested them to utilise it at their discretion.

The Lodge thanks everybody who supported them on this project. Your generosity has assisted in helping those who are less fortunate than ourselves.



Wor Bro Tony Bosman (Secretary and Past Master of Lodge MW Pretorius) handed over the donation certificate to a most appreciative Ms Janie Swart, who is the General Manager of the Rotalia Centre.

2021: a New Year - Some Thoughts from our Leaders

Deputy GM - RW Bro Brandon Topham



Freemasonry has survived various onslaughts over hundreds of years as we have striven to make the world a better place. Covid is possibly the most perilous event to threaten our continuance since World War 2 as the inability to meet in person inhibits our old and trusted ways to build fraternal bonds and to support one another, as well as from teaching our moral lessons. New masons are prevented from joining us. It interferes with our unique way of doing things, which enable us to play a role in changing the chaos in the world into constructive, safe environments for future generations.

We must ensure during this time of physical isolation that Masonry survives and prospers not just due to ritual meetings but due to the interactions and support which we as Freemasons have with each other.

Let's find and share ways, during this crisis, to build bonds of friendship and interact with Brethren remembering our duty to aid and make society a better place for all. Now is the time to embrace change and find ways to build on this tragedy so that Freemasonry will stand stronger after Covid has been defeated. As Brothers we are not alone. Let's leave no one behind.

PGM Northern - RW Bro Godfrey Place

Despite the challenges faced, it is the aim of Northern Division to focus on positive, rewarding ideas and initiatives. By so doing, we believe that we can affect change in all our member's lives.



As we contemplate our own perceived hardships, we often fail to look behind us and see how many people are envying us. We overlook our blessings and become insensitive to those more needy.

As Freemasons we learn to know ourselves. By doing so, we can put our own lives into perspective and prepare ourselves better to assist others. How often does a very small, kind gesture see the recipient's face light up? With this in mind, our Division has instituted the "R2-a-day Challenge" to all of our members. Think about how little, for most of us, R2 really is – but what a positive contribution almost R300,000 a year could make to those who are really in need.

We can't wait to get back to Lodge and we spend much time planning for the moment but, until we can, let's act out our Freemasonry in every way possible.

**A RIVER CUTS
THROUGH A ROCK
NOT BECAUSE OF
ITS POWER, BUT
ITS PERSISTENCE.**

THE THING WE SAY

PGM Southern - RW Bro Tommy Hardiman

Thomas Edison said, "If we did all that we are capable of we would continually astonish ourselves". In these challenging times it is worth remembering that the difference between success and failure is simply your refusing to quit.



This is not just a game that we are playing but a precious gift of life that we are living. The good book tells us that we are God's highest creation, so I ask you then, what will you do with that power?

What do you want to be remembered for? What can you do as a man and as a Mason to make the world a better place? What is your true purpose on this earth?

It is my belief that each of us was placed on this earth for a purpose, to maximise our particular talents, skills, and abilities, to serve the world in some way and to make it just a little bit better for all.

Enter into 2021 with this firm belief.

That the future can be better than the present, and that I have the power to make it so.

PGM Eastern - RW Bro Basil de Kock

In difficult times, it's easy to lose ourselves in our own struggles and to forget about those who have far bigger challenges than we ourselves have. Many of them are really challenged.



It is not always a situation requiring financial aid, but it's usually a need for a far more important aspect of Freemasonry, being Brotherly Love. Often we just need to reach out with a phone call, and to have a "buddy" chat, Brother to Brother. We need to show we care.

Knowing that there is someone thinking of him goes a long way in assisting a Brother in distress.

May every Brother have a healthy and happy 2021 and may you grow stronger from your experiences.

PGM Sentrale - SV Br Frans Appelgryn

Die lewe is soet en suur, aangenaam en minder aangenaam wat hand- aan- hand loop. Ieder en elke broer van alle konstitusies wêreldwyd laat ons onder die huidige omstandighede waarin ons, ons bevind aangaande die pandemie wat soos 'n dief in die



nag soveel entosiasme van soveel Broers kom berokken het en so ook soveel lewens al geneem het, en self onder die Broederskap, wens ek alle voorspoed toe en moedig alle Broers aan om positief en entosiasies te bly, want ook dit wat minder aangenaam is sal ook verbygaan. Seënwense aan alle Broers – Plaaslik en Wêreld wyd.

PGM Eastern Cape - RW Bro Keith Hutton



We, as Freemasons, simplify our main objective as being to assist a good man to make himself a better man and so contribute to the upliftment of his society. We endeavour, through our rituals and teachings, to provide men with the basic tools which will enable them to achieve this aim.

To quote Marian Wright Edelman, "Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it."

The character development that we are promoting, however, does not just happen. It takes commitment and continual effort. It means studying the rituals, articles and videos provided, absorbing the lessons taught and then putting them into daily practise.

This process gives a man a real purpose - and the ultimate rewards make it all so very worthwhile.

Almoner's Corner

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

Sadly, Christmas Eve 2020 saw the passing of our Grand Lodge's oldest member. VW Bro Melville Gush (Sonheuwel) passed away peacefully in Port Elizabeth aged 95 years. Melville had belonged to the GLSA for 62 years, was a Past Grand Master of Ceremonies and, in his younger days, a respected Assistant PGM. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time. May their memories give them the strength to cope.

Covid continues to impact on the members of our Grand Lodge and has now called Bro Schalk Erasmus (de Morgenster) to the Eternal East. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Bro Peter (de Goede Hoop), Schalk's wife and family as they mourn their loss. If only we could do more to help you bear your sorrow.

Other Covid afflicted Brethren in and out of hospital include the now recovering Past Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM (Friendship). We are also monitoring RW Bro Jim Duggan (de Goede Hoop) and his wife Margaret who are now at home recovering, Wor Bro Jock Wood (Marina), Bros Leonard Hersch (de Goede Hoop), Avron Lucas (de Goede Trouw) and Max Matjane (President Burgers), all of whom appear to be making a recovery. Brethren, we cannot urge you strongly enough to be careful - Covid is very clearly not to be taken lightly!

Wor Bro Tommy Burke (Golden City) is suffering from an unknown bacterial or viral infection and is battling with weight loss and a general weakness. We hope that this is resolved sooner rather than later.

Lesley, the wife of Wor Bro John Weigelt (Golden City) is slowly but surely recovering from pleurisy

following her bouts of double pneumonia. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

The doctors were forced to amputate the leg of Bro Koos Breet (Libertas). Be strong, Brother, and know that we are there to support you at this challenging time.

Tilly Jonker, Wor Bro Hannes (AJ Haak)'s wife, is at home recuperating and recovering from her recent knee replacement. Look after her, Hannes!

Wor Bro Alex Ndubuisi ((Alpha) has recently lost his mother after complications from a stroke. Sincere condolences to Alex and the family as they grieve.

On a happier note, Wor Bro Marius Mostert (Libertas) has proposed to Angela and they are now an engaged couple. Congratulations to both of you - may you have a long and happy life together.

I am also pleased to report that Bro Peter Erasmus (de Goede Hoop) married Hancke-Marie on Friday 8th January and the 2 of them are settling into a life shared. May their future together be a long and happy one.

To all of our Brethren, let us remember that, during this very difficult time, our older Brethren and widows are often lonelier than ever. Please contact them with a cheerful word, check whether they are in need of any assistance, try to involve them in your Zoom meetings and do what you can to reassure them that, as their Brothers, we will always care about them.

One Month, One Mason

The GLSA web site caters for both Masons and non-Masons and contains much interesting material.

"One Month, One Mason" is a series of monthly articles about different GLSA Brethren. If you would like your Masonic story to be considered, submit an article of 600 to 800 words, together with a picture, to the Grand Secretary. The following link will provide you with some examples: [1 Month, 1 Mason](#)

Your Lodge

*Do you attend the meetings
and if perchance you do,
do you say the Lodge is rotten
and run by just a few?*

*Do you say you're not consulted
on the things the Lodge should do?
Examine your conscience, Brother,
is it the Lodge or you?*

*What is your interest in the Lodge?
Is it for honour or for self?
Are you interested in your fellow man
or just focused on yourself?*

*Now you will realise, my Brother,
if you will study the matter a minute,
that all you get from Freemasonry
is just what you put in it.*