

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 111 April 2021



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSM MSA.

Inequality and Freemasonry

The Aim of the Grand Lodge of South Africa is 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, equality and justice for all persons.

Prince Hall was born between 1735 and 1738. By the age of 11 he was enslaved or in the service of a tanner in Boston, America but by 1770 was a free and literate man. He was married and worked as a peddler, caterer and leather worker and later owned his own leather shop. He was a leader in the free black community in Boston and was attracted to Freemasonry because he heard that it was founded upon the ideals of liberty, equality and peace. He applied to join St John's Lodge in Boston but was rejected, possibly because he was black. He and fifteen other black men then applied to join a military Lodge which was attached to the British forces stationed in Boston. He was duly initiated in Lodge No. 441, which was under the Grand Lodge of Ireland. He thereafter served in the Revolutionary War and he and other black freedmen later petitioned the Grand Lodge of England to form a lodge for black Freemasons. This Charter was duly granted and they formed the first Lodge for black members in 1784 and called it African Lodge No. 1. Due to its popularity and Prince Hall's leadership, the Grand Lodge of England appointed him as a Provincial Grand Master in 1791. He later formed similar Lodges in Philadelphia and Rhode Island and died in 1807. In 1827 the African Lodge declared its independence from England and all

other Lodges and shortly thereafter it was renamed the Prince Hall Grand Lodge. Prince Hall is renowned for his role in promoting equal education, the abolition of slavery and is recognised as one of the most influential black leaders in America during the late 1700s.

At about the same time in Europe, the continued inequality amongst the people of France resulted in widespread social distress and saw the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789 under the slogan of liberty, equality, fraternity. Though anti-slavery sentiments were widespread by this time, slavery was only abolished in France in 1794, in all the northern states of America by 1804, in Britain and her colonies in 1833, in certain eastern European countries in 1948 and in Mauritania in 1981. Akin to the inequality caused by slavery and racism is the absence of universal suffrage which gives the right to vote to all adult citizens regardless of wealth, income, gender, social status, race, ethnicity, politics etc. While the 1800s saw many international movements advocating universal suffrage, South Africa only introduced it in 1994.

It seems that notwithstanding the lofty ideals of Freemasonry, certain members have, over the past approximately 300 years, not abided by nor defended these ideals as actively or as strongly as they could have done. As modern Freemasons it is therefore our duty to confront and eradicate inequality wherever we encounter it. While we may not encounter slavery and while we may enjoy universal suffrage, there is still some inequality present in certain lodges. This may be caused by Brethren whose inflated egos have seen them forget or neglect to adhere to and comply with the Golden Rule, namely to "do unto others as you would they do unto you". As we take our obligations on the VSL, it is relevant to refer to certain verses contained therein in this regard. Proverbs 22 teaches us that the rich and the poor die together for the Great Architect of the Universe is the maker of them all. Micah 6 teaches us to do justice, to love kindness and to be humble. Acts 17 teaches us that God made all races and nations and that we are all equal in the sight of God.

As modern Freemasons we must therefore actively confront and eradicate racism, which is defined as prejudice, discrimination or antagonism by an individual, community or institution against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group. The United Nations Convention states that superiority based on racial differentiation is morally condemnable, socially unjust and is an example of extreme inequality. Let us therefore strive to ensure that Freemasonry is no longer tainted by inequality.

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

Covid or not – it's Good to be Working again!

The impact that Covid has had on the world has been enormous. It has cost lives, devastated economies and broken many of the societal links which bind mankind together. We have been unable to travel freely and could not spend the time with family and friends which is so important to our general well-being.

Zoom meetings have become the norm and, while they have proved invaluable in many ways, they really aren't a substitute for personal contact.

Anyway, while Covid is certainly not behind us yet, we have learned how to manage it more effectively and we are now starting to reopen some of the doors back into our normal way of life – and recommencing our Masonic activities is a very real part of this.

There are, of course, very strict controls in place around size of gatherings, suitability of premises, social distancing and wearing of masks for example, but these are manageable. We trained CCOs, (Covid Compliance Officers), prepared and sanitised our premises, made temporary modifications to our rituals and strictly control numbers at our meetings – but it's all worth it!

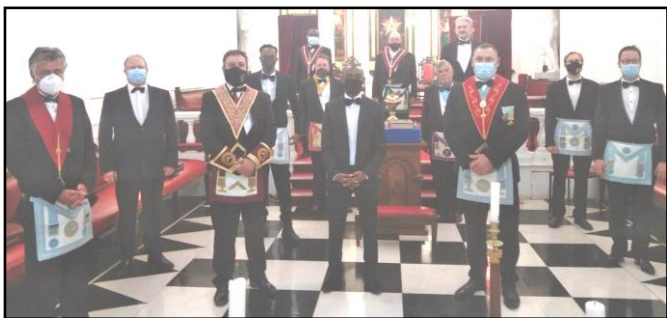
As from the beginning of April we opened our activities again – the Covid way.

At the start of the month, Eastern Cape's Lodge Tolerance initiated Bro Damian Marais. He was the GLSA's first new Apprentice since the start of lockdown some 13 months earlier. The evening was a great success and all of the Brethren who attended were more than happy to just be together again.



Damian with Wor Bro Paul West

Southern Division, under the direction of their Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, have also commenced their active labours. During April Simon van der Stel, assisted by Tommy's Association of Lodges and with Tommy himself in the Chair, initiated Christianam Kalumba. Almost predictably, the evening was an extremely happy one.



Bro Christian Kalumba, surrounded by his new Brethren

De Goede Trouw passed Bro Jarred Clarke to the 2nd degree on 13th April and, in an attempt to catch up on their backlog, will be having yet another working before the end of the month.

While the Brethren are inevitably a little rusty, the workings are generally going very well and there is a great deal of enthusiasm being displayed.

Northern Division, under the guidance of their Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Godfrey Place, and his team are also very much back in action. They have initiated 3 new Brethren and passed another Brother to Fellowcraft. They are working strictly in line with the Covid guidelines and rituals and confirm that, for the most part, the process is working very well.

Bro Tsheppo Mothale was initiated as a new member of Prins Frederik on Tuesday 27th April. The PGM was in the Chair for the evening and was well



Bro Tsheppo Mothale (4R) together with his new Brethren

supported by the Lodge team. At the end of the evening Bro Mothale was called on to respond to his toast and thoroughly impressed the Brethren with his sincerity and desire to contribute to the Order and to benefit from the teachings that we endeavour to inculcate.

Other Northern Division Lodges performing initiations were Orange with Deon van der Merwe, and Star of the Rand with Ali Shams. Once again, the much enjoyed workings went well and the Brethren were just delighted to be together and in action again. Not to be outdone, Friendship passed Bro Volkan Ayasar to the Fellowcraft degree at another successful event.

Magersfontein Install new Worshipful Master

Saturday 24th April was a big day for the GLSA's only military Lodge, Magersfontein, as this was the day that they installed Wor Bro Peet Louw as their new Worshipful Master. The Installation ceremony took place at the historic Kimberley Temple and was conducted by the PGM, RW Bro Frand Appelgryn who was more than ably assisted by his Provincial Officers. Wor Bro Peet Louw is a well respected member of both the GLSA and the UGLE and the Brethren have very good reason to expect the next few years to be both interesting and very successful ones.



RW Bro Vic Mühlenbeck, Wor Bro Peet Louw and RW Bro Alf Brönnner

AASR are Living in Interesting Times!

Sovereign Grand Commander's reinstallation

I have a favourite Chinese greeting which goes along the lines of "May you live in Interesting Times". Under the leadership of Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Boet du Plessis MA, the AASR for South Africa is most certainly living in Interesting Times. Despite the challenges imposed by the Covid pandemic and the difficulties in getting things done, the AASR continues to flourish and go from strength to strength.

Over the past 3 years, Boet has established very strong ties around the world, cemented our position as a leader in Africa, negotiated the removal of the blockages which stunted the interaction of the AASR bodies represented in South Africa, modernised our rituals and initiated meaningful education in support thereof (enlisting assistance from a world AASR expert (being Arturo de Hoyos), consecrated the Chapter Ronnie Bauser in Kimberley and plenty more besides.



MP Bro du Plessis was recently reelected as the Sovereign Grand Commander and his installation was celebrated at the Marriott Hotel in Johannesburg.

During the course of the event, P Bro Vic Mühlenbeck took advantage of the opportunity to present a Meritorious Award (MA) to Boet in recognition of his quite exceptional efforts.

Under Boet's direction, the AASR are in the process of establishing DeMolay Chapters in South Africa and will shortly be introducing the Shriners.

AASR invest 5 new 33° members

On Saturday 20th March, the same day as the Installation of the Sovereign Grand Commander, the AASR for South Africa invested 5 new members to the 33rd degree. This is a very special day in the life of any AASR Mason and the ceremony was performed with dignity by MP Bro Boet du Plessis and his team.

The 5 Brethren who were privileged enough to be invested as 33° members, seen in the picture below, are: V Ill Bros Rex Ingle, Keith Hutton, Marcel de Kock and Machiel Brits and M Ill Bro Henry Selzer.



M Ill Bro Henry Selzer will serve on the Executive as the Grand Chancellor, while V Ill Bro Keith Hutton will be an Active member of Supreme Council.

To make the event even more special, 4 Scottish 33rd degree members were present, a first time ever.

To watch a short YouTube video on the AASR events of Saturday 24th March, click on the link below:

[33rd Degree and SGC Installation](#)

Consecration of Chapter Ronnie Bauser

MW Bro Ronnie Bauser OSM was Grand Master of the GLSA between 1991 and 1997 and played a lead role in the establishment of the AASR of South Africa.



When, therefore, it was decided to consecrate a new Chapter in his home town of Kimberley. It was very easy to decide on the new Chapter's name.

Chapter Ronnie Bauser was consecrated on 24th April 2021 and Ill Bro Mike Combrink was installed as it's first Most Wise Sovereign. The ceremony was conducted by MP Bro Boet du Plessis and his team in the presence of our own AASR members and several senior representatives of the local English AASR constitution.



In attendance at the Consecration of Chapter Ronnie Bauser were MP Bro Boet du Plessis MA (5L), Ill Bro Mike Combrink (6L), P Bro Vic Mühlenbeck (7L), our own senior AASR Officers, senior English AASR representatives and other AASR members

Returning to an Old Home

Lodge Jagersfontein (14 GLSA) went into recess in 1994. As a result, the Temple was sold and, over the course of the next 24 years, was left neglected and sadly deteriorated into a very poor state.

Some 3 years ago a lady by the name of Letitia bought the building and set about restoring it back to its former glory. It also now has guest rooms and a restaurant – but the Lodge section has been almost unaltered and has been converted into a museum.



Over the past few years Lodge Diamond in Koffiefontein had reached a point where the costs of running the Temple were proving more than they could manage. They had attracted some new members but, even so, the costs were overwhelming them. They were looking at moving to Kimberley when they discovered what had happened to the old Jagersfontein Temple, which was now useable again. Better still, Letitia was only too happy to rent the museum / Lodge to them on a monthly basis and at a very reasonable rental.

To say that RW Bro Frans Appelgryn and his team are enthusiastic about it all is an understatement. Frans assures me that it is one of the most beautiful Temples in South Africa and, better still, it was his father's Lodge. Most of the Diamond members live closer to Jagersfontein than they did to Kimberley so, as far as they are concerned, it's a match made in heaven.

Just to make certain that the original Lodge Jagersfontein doesn't get forgotten in the excitement, they will be hanging its charter in the museum.

Almoner's Corner

For the most part this month's report will be a short one and we really hope that it's because our Brethren, are in generally good health. We do, however, have a couple of cases that we should update you on.

Wor Bro Jacques Maritz (Westerford) has been through a nightmarish experience. It started as a pain behind his eye which was finally identified as a fungal infection which had spread into the brain cavity. While the doctors have done a great job of clearing it all up, it has cost him one of his eyes. Please keep Jacques and Ingrid in your thoughts and prayers.

We are pleased to be able to report that Bro Johnny Angelides (Golden City) has recovered from Covid. Better still, we have no other Covid cases to report.

I'm also pleased to be able to advise that VW Bro Simon Nash (Star of the Rand) had an "innocent" growth removed from the top of his foot and, while he hobbled around for a bit, he's now fine again.,

Wor Bro Hein van Rensburg (Jacob de Mist) is still going through a series of Chemo procedures. Be strong, Hein, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Linsey, the wife of Wor Bro Andre Germishuys (de Goede Hoop), advises us that the doctors have changed his medication and that he is now doing better.

A number of our Brethren have lost close relatives and our sincere condolences are extended to RW Bro Johan Britz (Libertas) who lost his sister and Bro Gary Elliott (President Burgers who lost his father-in law.. May the GAOTU give you and your families the strength to cope with your grief during this time.

You are also reminded about our old and frail Brethren and their families. Remember, Brethren, we are Freemasons, so let's make sure that they know that we care. Give them a call, pay them a visit, but what ever you do don't let them feel forgotten.

.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

A few days ago MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM asked me whether I'd be interested in including some Masonic cartoons. I promised to look at them and must admit that some of them certainly made me chuckle – and I can personally relate to this Secretary one!

